

## De Maiziere sets eyes on premiership

EAST BERLIN (AP) — Lothar de Maiziere, leader of the Conservative Party that won the most seats in the East German election, said Friday he was ready to become the country's first non-communist premier. De Maiziere's party won overwhelmingly with backing from West Germany's governing conservatives, despite allegations that he collaborated with the Stasi, the East German secret police. De Maiziere has denied the allegations. Earlier, East Germany's chief prosecutor rejected a charge that all new parliamentary deputies be investigated immediately for past links with the secret police. Dieter Pfaff, spokesman for Chief Prosecutor Hans-Joerg Joseph, said such a probe would be illegal before the new parliament is sworn in. Church officials had urged the probe amid mounting concerns that many of the lawmakers had links to the Stasi. During 40 years of rule, the Communists used the Stasi to control all walks of life, and many people were intimidated into collaborating.

# Jordan Times

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## Gaza girl killed by army jeep

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Soldiers opened fire on Palestinians to quell a protest in a refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip Friday that was sparked when an army jeep ran over and killed a five-year-old girl, reports said. Police said that Wafa Nabil Abdul Razzi Abu Mldin jumped into the street and was accidentally hit by a passing military jeep. She was brought to a hospital but died and was buried shortly afterwards, said a police spokesman. Reports said that news of the death sparked protests in the Bureij camp and that a 20-year-old youth was shot in the leg when troops opened fire on the crowd. Also Friday, two firebombs were thrown in the West Bank town of Ramallah, the army said. Israel Radio reported that the firebombs hit a car transporting ABC and Visions television crews, but there was no damage or injuries.

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## Arafat praises American stand on settlements

CASABLANCA (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat said Friday the United States had made a very important gesture by opposing Israeli settlement in the occupied territories.

"The American administration of George Bush is the first to demand an end to Israeli occupation," he said on a talk show broadcast by the private Moroccan television network 2-M International.

He said Bush opposed settlement in Arab Jerusalem "because it is occupied territory" and this was a very important new development.

He recalled that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had said that the Israelis must forget their dreams of a greater Israel.

Up to 100,000 Soviet Jews are expected to emigrate to Israel this year. Some have already settled in the occupied territories.

Arafat said Baker was "trying to open up a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians..." in other words to demolish the wall between the two sides as a first step towards an international Middle East peace conference under U.N. auspices.

Arafat limited that he expected stronger U.S. support.

"The Americans cannot remain silent on the deaths of 1,100 Palestinians" during the intifada in the occupied territories.

The PLO chief said that if right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was able to form a new government in the Jewish state there would be continued war with the Palestinians.

"With (Labour Party leader Shimon) Peres it will be a peace plan (and) the Israelis will have chosen... peace... and dialogue," said Arafat.

Arafat, who arrived in Morocco after attending Namibia's independence celebrations, said "Even the racist regime of Pretoria accepted dialogue with (nationalist leader Nelson) Mandela."

"I cannot see how Israel, South Africa's twin, can go it alone and continue to sail against the current of history," he said.

Arafat Thursday urged from United Nations action to stop Soviet Jews from emigrating to the occupied territories.

"We don't need a weak decision, but a strong decision with international observers to supervise it," he told Algerian television.

Arafat said he had discussed the issue Wednesday night with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze after independence ceremonies in Namibia.

"He informed me that this Palestinian concern and fear has become central to the understanding of the Soviet leadership," Arafat said.

A Palestinian delegation would travel shortly to Moscow to discuss the issue, he said, urging Arab, Islamic, non-aligned and friendly governments to take action to stop the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Arafat met on Friday with former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy.

Murphy is on a private visit to Tunis as part of an area familiarization tour for the New York-based Council for Foreign Relations.

Alfred Atherton, former U.S. ambassador to Cairo, and Graham Fuller, a former national intelligence officer who now works for the Rand corporation, are in Tunis independently and saw Arafat with Murphy.

## No suspects named, no travel bans imposed 9 corruption cases go to prosecutors

By Salamah Ne'matt  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Six prosecutors begin investigations today into suspected cases of corruption passed on to the prosecutor general by the Lower House of Parliament, informed sources said Friday.

The sources said the six prosecutors would study the cases before deciding whether witnesses need to be called or additional information sought prior to cases being referred to courts for legal action.

Meanwhile, official sources denied Friday that 27 people were named as suspects in corruption cases or that the prosecutor general asked several suspects not to leave the country.

The sources told the Jordan Times that Prime Minister Mudar Badran, when asked by members of the Finance Committee of the House to issue orders banning suspects from leaving the country, said such an order can only be taken by the judiciary based on legal grounds reached through the due process of the law.

Speaking during the closed session Tuesday, Badran explained that the prime minister could not more issue such orders at a time

when martial law provisions are frozen.

The prime minister announced the freezing of martial laws in January and promised to abolish them altogether within four to six months. He also withdrew martial court jurisdiction over nearly 50 per cent of violations so as to allow regular courts to take over.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that when asked during the session, the committee declined to offer names of individuals it believes are involved in corruption cases.

Badran repeatedly said over the last few weeks that his government was prepared to refer all cases of financial and administrative corruption to relevant courts provided sufficient information was available to justify the decision.

Justice Minister Yousef Mbaiden chaired a meeting Thursday attended by criminal court chief Hosni Jayoussi, Prosecutor General Mohammad Smadi and heads of investigation councils. During the meeting, the cases referred from the Lower House were distributed among the six prosecutors.

The sources said that the case involving the sale of one-third of the Central Bank's gold reserves

was assigned to Ibrahim Abu Taleb. The Jubeha amusement park case was assigned to Sami Khader, the wheat and barley case to Khalaf Raqqad and both the Abu Nuseir housing project and the Swaga prison cases to Mohammad Kreishan.

The sources added that the investigation councils will also look into cases involving the purchase of animal feed and a case referred to the prosecutor general by the Ministry of Health. They said a committee was formed comprising representatives of the Audit Bureau, the General Appliances Department and the Ministry of Health to investigate the case.

Officials, observers and deputies said the nine cases referred to the prosecutor general could lead to the investigation of several former and present government officials, businessmen and at least four deputies in the Lower House.

According to an official source, who spoke to the Jordan Times, deputies Thounan Hindawi, Hussein Mjalli and Salim Zoubi demanded during the closed session that the investigation should cover projects going as far back as 1975. He said the demand was not put to vote.

## House committee probes leak of closed session's deliberations

By Salamah Ne'matt  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the Kingdom's judiciary launches its probe into nine suspected cases of corruption passed on to the prosecutor general by the Lower House of Parliament, a House panel began investigations into parliamentary sources who leaked information to the press about last Tuesday's "secret" session.

In a stormy session Thursday, the House appointed an eleven-member committee to investigate the leak to the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i which was seen by many as a breach of a consensus established by a majority vote over keeping secret the House's deliberations on the Finance Committee's report on corruption.

Speaker Suleiman Arar announced that he had received a memo signed by 10 deputies asking the House to question one deputy who they said leaked information to the press.

Following the front-page reports in the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i Wednesday, Al Dustour and Sawt Al Shaab followed suit Thursday and published more de-

tails of the "secret" session's deliberations.

Al Ra'i Editor-in-Chief Mahmoud Al Kayed and Jordan Press Association President Hashem Khreizat were interviewed Thursday by the committee over the publication of the story.

Kayed said he refused to reveal his sources because "according to the law and the constitution, journalists have the right to protect their sources."

He added that "the profession's ethics forbid the editor in chief from revealing the newspaper's sources."

When asked about the affair, Khreizat said he was out of the country at the time and could not comment on the issue.

The investigation committee includes 11 deputies. However only five of them interviewed Kayed and Khreizat on Thursday. They were: Nayef Hadid, Mohammad Alawneh, Fouad Khalafat, Abdul Mun'im Abu Zant and Atif Al Boush.

Parliamentary sources, officials and observers said the nine cases referred to the prosecutor general could lead to an investigation of several former and present officials as well as at least four deputies.

Speaking on behalf of 16 colleagues, Deputy Saad Hayel Sour said parliamentary sources who leaked information to the press were acting "against the will of the majority."

"We were surprised yesterday (Wednesday) with the publication of Tuesday's deliberations and decisions taken by the House regarding these cases," Sour told the House.

"The party which leaked the information must bear the responsibility for being in contempt of the House's decisions," he added.

Sour said that whoever leaked what the House considered a secret "cannot be entrusted with state secrets. This is considered an act of disregard for the House's secret decisions and an act of profiteering... We demand that the party responsible for what was published yesterday be identified and we call for the establishment of principles and a moral code that would commit everyone in relation to secret sessions."

He warned that otherwise, "we regret to say that we would not attend any secret sessions."

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## Journalists react sharply to deputies' attack on press

By Nermeen Murad  
and Saad Hattar

AMMAN — Jordanian journalists and the press reacted sharply Friday to charges by Lower House deputies that newspapers violated the parliament's code of secrecy when they published details of Tuesday's closed session.

In a session held Thursday, the Lower House adopted a resolution to appoint a panel to investigate "the leakage of the House's deliberations," after a number of deputies attacked Al Ra'i daily, which, apart from the English-language Jordan Times, was the first Arabic newspaper to publish the details (see story above).

Al Ra'i, in a commentary signed by its parliamentary editor Friday, said the House was still "rotating around itself in discussing the instinctive rules of the game of democracy."

"It looked yesterday as if some of the country's deputies wanted to become the chief editors of the Jordanian newspapers, deciding what should be published and what should not by claiming to know what is harmful and what is not," the commentary said.

Prominent Jordanian writers and columnists criticised the

House's inability to define the difference between its decision to conduct a secret session and the journalists' right and duty to reveal information to the public. They also blamed the House for the leakage of the information and defended the media from the responsibility of maintaining it.

"If the House members decided they wanted to hold a secret session they should maintain that secrecy and it is our duty to unveil it," Tareq Massarweh, leading political columnist at Al Ra'i, told the Jordan Times.

In its commentary, Al Ra'i said parliament members had been blamed for not recognising the "role of the press in publishing facts, in the democratic world, as well as its role in achieving justice, in the watergate scandal, which led to the fall of an American president."

"The direct connection which distinguishes the press in its relationship with the people, enables it, in great democracies, to become the fourth estate in practice and not only in theory," the commentary added.

Only then could the press become the "real guarantee against the monopoly of one of the three branches of government over power which takes the shape of complete control of information... and sometimes 'right' too."

Deputy Abdul Mun'im Abu Zant was blamed by Al Ra'i for not abiding by his declared stand that all sessions should be open since he had maintained that "a secret does not remain that if shared by more than two people."

"The shahid asked one of our colleagues at Al Ra'i 'how much did you pay to the person who leaked the secret information to you?' Al Ra'i said, 'Well, what is going to prevent deputies from going back to the security departments, which they campaigned against, to investigate their colleagues and use policing methods with them?' Al Ra'i asked."

"The media, which sometimes suffered from the terror of the executive authority, is not going to succumb to terror exercised by some deputies," the newspaper said.

In voicing an opinion on the issue, Al Shaab columnist Musa Hawandeh, underlined the right of the press to search for and publish information, noting that had the press "published the news of corruption when it was taking place it would have stopped many of the corrupt from continuing this practice."

He added that publishing the proceedings of the secret session at this time "would be a warning for those contemplating illegal acts from doing so."

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## King's talks in Paris, London 'very fruitful'

By a Jordan Times  
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein's recent talks with the leaders of France and Britain were "highly successful" and the King was extremely satisfied with the position of the European Community (EC) on Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, an official source said Friday.

The King, who returned from his visits to the two countries Thursday, was "successful clarifying the Arab point of view towards the issue of Soviet immigration," the source told the Jordan Times. Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the possibility that hundreds of thousands of the new arrivals could be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have raised Arab fears that all efforts for peace in the Middle East could be undermined and Israel could be moving towards realising its plan for a

"greater Israel."

The issue was one of the central themes discussed by the King with French President Francois Mitterrand and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as well as senior officials from both countries, said the source, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

The source said the King's talks in France and Britain had additional significance in light of the two countries' special relationship with the U.S.

The EC, in a statement issued earlier this month, warned Israel against settling Jews in the occupied territories but did not condemn the flow of immigrants to Israel proper.

According to the source, the King clarified to the French and British leaders that the Arabs were not against the emigration of Soviet Jews, but opposed their "forced immigration" to Israel and settlement in the occupied

lands.

The King explained that curbs imposed on immigration to countries other than Israel were seen by the Arab World as "forced immigration," the source said.

The King also pointed out that any settlement of occupied territories violated international laws, including the fourth Geneva convention related to the status of occupied lands and the occupier.

The King also gave several press interviews, including two French newspapers, an American television and Voice of America. He also met with members of the American Association of Journalists and Arab correspondents based in Britain as well as editors of Arabic-language dailies and magazines published in London.

During these meetings, the King reviewed the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the situation in the Middle East and outlined Jordan's position on these issues.

## 'Less politicised' bloc sweeps contractors association

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The "professional unity bloc" scored a landslide victory in elections held Friday for the executive committee of the powerful Jordanian Contractors Association, securing eight of the nine seats open for contest. Based on this majority victory, bloc candidate Awai Saket was elected president of the association.

Despite the similarity in platforms espoused by the two other competing blocs, the "credibility and personal creditworthiness" of the candidates fielded by the "professional unity bloc" were cited by voters and observers as the factor behind the bloc's astounding victory, though expected by many.

Association members seemed to have put their confidence in the list supported by outgoing President Ali Abu Ghareb. The only candidate from a rival independent bloc who managed to gain a seat in the committee was Nabil Shami.

Observers noted that Abu Ghareb had been a very popular president and the only thing stopping him from seeking a third term for him was the association's law. "Awai Saket is seen as another Ali Abu Ghareb," said a veteran founding member of the association. "He is believed to be a very good administrator and interested in the welfare of all contractors, particularly the little ones — traits that distinguished his predecessor." Abu Ghareb had been known to have been a powerful force in lobbying to increase the bargaining leverage of contractors, especially the smaller ones.

"This election relied solely on personalities and reputation of their companies," said an election organiser as voting was proceeding at the Jerusalem Hotel earlier in the day. "If the candidate is thought to be financially and contractually sound then he would have a better chance of winning the race than one who is known to be heavily in debt," he added.

Many voters cited "track records and credibility with the government" as essential qualities of the candidates they planned to vote for.

While most voters said that they would not adhere to any particular list the final results indicated that they had.

The three "lists" or blocs competing for the nine seats on the 10-member (one seat is filled by nomination) executive committee of the 17-year-old association have officially distanced themselves from political trends in the Kingdom. "This is a professional association and as representatives of a large portion of the country's business community we are less politicised than other professional associations," Abu Ghareb said.

The professional unity list is considered by independent observers as including supporters of pan-Arab, leftist and liberal political trends. The second bloc was described as "professionally pro-establishment and politically Islamist." The "independent bloc" fielded only five candidates and its supporters insisted that the bloc was completely business-oriented.

What distinguished Friday's elections from several other elections for professional associations in the Kingdom was that many Islamists pooled for six out of the nine candidates fielded by the professional unity list, citing professional reasons.

Of the 460 registered contracting companies, 360 had paid their fees by Thursday evening and approximately 20 more had apparently paid their dues before voting on Friday. Settlement of all dues is a prerequisite for voting eligibility.

"We supported six out of their nine candidates," said Hassan Hawandeh, one of the association's voting members and a known campaigner for Muslim Brotherhood candidates in other professional association elections. "We vote for those that we believe will serve the professions," he added.

While none of those on the professional unity list is considered by observers as Muslim Brotherhood members, two are considered supporters of "Islamic trends." They are Ahmad Latouf, who won the vice-president's seat, and Mohammad Murad. The winners were as follows:

Awai Saket (president) — 206 votes, Ahmad Latouf (vice-president) — 148 votes, Mohammad Tahaneh (132), Hamed Jabr (137), Mohammad Murad (166), Ali Karaki (172), Fathi Samara (229), Fayez Madanat (133) and Nabil Shami (133).

## Infiltration bid foiled

AMMAN (J.T.) — Units of the Armed Forces foiled an attempt by a group of arms and drug smugglers to infiltrate into Jordan through the Kingdom's northern border on Wednesday, an Armed Forces spokesman said Friday.

The spokesman, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said all of the would-be infiltrators fled after a shootout with Armed Forces units, leaving behind a number of Kalashnikov machineguns and ammunition and an unspecified quantity of hashish.

In the first incident, which took place Monday, a policeman was shot dead, a PSD spokesman said.

He said that the Anti-Narcotics Department organised an operation to arrest the smugglers. In the operation, the smugglers shot and killed Lieutenant Ahmad Abdul Karim Sakhal.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday delegated the Madfraq governor to convey condolences to Al Sakhal family.

## Peres seeks to form minority government

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's Labour Party, struggling to form a government, is seeking short-term deals that could make its leader, Shimon Peres, prime minister even without a reliable majority in Israel's deadlocked parliament.

Political sources said Friday that Peres, who hopes to lead Israel to first-ever peace talks with Palestinians, wanted to present a government to parliament by Wednesday, the last session before a scheduled seven-week recess.

They said Labour was vigorously trying to gain the backing of one or a few legislators — including members of the rightist Likud party of caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"Labour is not actually insisting that they come over to the Labour Party — that would be absurd even for Israeli politics. They must want them to abstain in the vote," one source quoted by Reuters said.

Labour officials did not rule out a minority government. If Peres could squeak through an endorsement vote before the re-

cess Labour could then use the interlude to negotiate for an enlarged coalition.

Backing for Labour and Likud is evenly split at 60-60 in parliament. A switch or a decision by one member to abstain could give Peres his margin of victory.

Peres was asked by President Chaim Herzog Monday to try to form a new government after leading a drive that brought down Shamir. Five abstentions by the religious Shas party enabled the successful no-confidence vote.

But religious parties that hold the balance of power between Labour and Likud have since balked at joining a narrow coalition led by the dovish Peres.

U.S. President George Bush Thursday rejected suggestions his public opposition to Jewish settlements in Arab Jerusalem contributed to the collapse of Israel's coalition government.

"I think a president, when he reiterates the standing policy of the United States government, is doing the correct thing. I do not think it contributed to the fall of the government," Bush told a news conference.

## Discord plagues income tax law

By a Jordan Times Reporter

AMMAN — Discussions of a controversial income tax law introduced by the government and amended by the Finance Committee of the Lower House of Parliament are to be resumed in a third session Monday following an inconclusive debate Thursday.

Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh, in a detailed report designed to convince the House to reject the committee's amendment widening income tax exemptions for rents, said the amendments would reduce official revenues by JD 22.6 million and have adverse effects on the economy.

The finance minister told the House that the proposed amendments raising exemptions from 10 to 30 per cent on rents for housing and 30 per cent for other purposes would primarily help high-income citizens, with a very limited benefit for low-income people.

Finance Committee Chairman Abdullah Ensour argued that the exemptions would boost investment in real estate and construction, the Kingdom's second largest sector after industry. He said that lower taxes on revenues from rents would also result in lower rents for low-income people.

Jardaneh disagreed saying that "the best method to boost investments in construction is the expansion of housing projects which are leased to citizens in accordance with their financial capabilities."

On another proposal exempting profits on shares of banks and financial institutions and reducing taxes on investments in companies established after Jan. 1, 1990, Jardaneh said that this amendment would deprive the treasury of an important source of revenue, "making private sector investments at the expense of the income tax, contrary to international income tax laws."

The minister warned that the treasury's loss would be great because the amendment allows individuals with investment projects to execute the project through tax reductions as a private shareholding company, and then making deduct this investment from net profits that are subject to taxation.

He said raising university fee exemptions from JD 500 to JD 1,500 would benefit high-income citizens. He pointed out that there are 75,000 Jordanian students in local and foreign universities, including 5,000 in the United States and 2,000 in Western Europe.

On returning the scaled income tax on shareholding companies, Jardaneh said the government's amendment of the law was in line with international practice "which differentiates between corporate tax and tax on individuals which are collected according to incomes."

On the committee's proposal to abolish categorised exemptions on individuals whose income exceeds JD 10,000 a year, the minister said the original amendment did not affect low-income citizens and that abolishing this amendment "would only benefit those with income exceeding JD 10,000."

He explained that the government's amendments which put an income tax base and ceiling on personal income was designed to increase exemptions for low-income groups and to limit exemptions on high-income Jordanians.

On the other hand, Jardaneh said, the government had no objection to raising exemptions for public sector employees to JD 4,800 a year.

The minister said the government had decided that banks and financial institutions must pay a minimum of 35 per cent on their profits before distribution of dividends, so as to achieve an equitable distribution of the tax burden.

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## Palestinians draw up ambitious health plan for occupied lands

CAIRO (R) — Palestinians have drawn up a national plan to improve the health of nearly two million people living under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip at an initial cost of more than \$50 million.

A 157-page document from the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and made available to Reuters Friday painted a grim picture of a population increasingly debilitated by physical and mental ills after two years in revolt against Israeli rule.

The plan outlined an integrated health care network throughout the territories, drawing heavily on financial and technical help from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other international relief aid organisations.

A massive injection of cash would clearly be needed to make the scheme work effectively.

The report's budget forecast showed that the envisaged primary health care system alone

would cost an estimated \$45 million to equip, staff and run in its first year.

Another 39 million would be needed over five years to implement the proposals for secondary health.

The document, drawn up by the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and dated March this year, detailed plans for properly equipped hospitals, psychiatric clinics and rehabilitation centres over a 10-year period.

Its stated aim was to provide 41 main primary health care centres, 63 intermediate centres and 88 small clinics with 26 mobile units and 24 ambulances.

The document hinted indirectly at the way in which the plan could

help keep the revolt going by saying it would "encourage the idea that reducing suffering through efficient health care contributes to the building of peace."

One Cairo-based diplomat told Reuters he thought there was a pressing need on the part of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat to bolster support in the territories for his policy of seeking direct peace talks with Israel.

"Medical help is badly needed, but it's also a chance for the Palestine leaders outside to show they're not utterly irrelevant on the streets of Gaza and the West Bank," he said.

Palestinian medical sources said one of the plan's main architects was Fathi Arafat, the nationalist leader's brother and head of the Palestine Red Crescent Hospital in Cairo.

The PRCS document said 50,000 Palestinians had been injured in one way or another in the

two-year-old intifada or uprising against Israel's 22-year-old occupation.

Twenty per cent of the injured were women and a further 20 per cent children, it said, adding that the entire Palestinian family was affected by the struggle between the two sides.

The PRCS, set up by the PLO in 1968 and endorsed by the Palestine National Council (PNC) the following year, said in the document that infant mortality had soared under Israeli occupation.

The incidence of mental diseases was three times higher in the territories than in Israel itself, the report added.

It said total health spending in the territories had fallen from \$235.5 million in 1978 to \$3.98 million in 1984.

The whole expenditure on health in the West Bank is less than one third of that of one Israeli hospital," it said.

## Rival Christian forces battle in east Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rival Christian forces skirmished with howitzers and mortars north of Beirut Friday amid mounting differences over a settlement to their dispute.

Police said no casualties were reported from the shooting of about 10 rounds per hour across the Christian hinterland of Kesrouan province.

By police count, the first for by 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave has killed 762 people and wounded 2,116 since it broke out Jan. 30, pitting army troops of rebel Gen. Michel Aoun against Samir Geagea's militiamen.

Geagea, who heads the Lebanese Forces militia, said in an interview with the conservative daily Al Bayraq that he differed with Aoun on the formation of a political authority to end their dispute.

"We want the authority to deal with the Lebanese crisis, while the general wants it to deal with the (Christian enclave)," Geagea said.

A three-man mediation committee, which called the shaky ceasefire on March 3, has proposed the formation of the political authority to work out a settlement to the conflict between Aoun and Geagea.

Christian sources, close to the mediation committee, said Aoun wanted to head the proposed political authority.

One source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Aoun also wanted the political authority's mission limited to running the day-to-day affairs of the estimated one million Christians who

live in the enclave.

Geagea, according to the source, wanted the authority to negotiate an end to the civil war with opposition leaders.

The source said Geagea wanted the Syrian-backed government of President Elias Hrawi to spread its authority over the enclave, while Aoun strongly objects to this.

On Thursday, Geagea reiterated a cautious welcome for an Arab League-brokered peace plan to end Lebanon's nearly 15-year-old civil war.

Hrawi was elected president on Nov. 24 in line with the peace accord, worked out by Lebanese lawmakers in Taif, Saudi Arabia, last October to ensure a more balanced distribution of power between Muslims and Christians.

"The Taif accord could be a way to a solution that would unite one of the many nooses of the Lebanese crisis," Geagea said Thursday.

Aoun has rejected the Taif accord and refused to recognise Hrawi as head of state.

Aoun, Geagea and Hrawi are Maronites, the Catholic community that has dominated political life in Lebanon since independence from France in 1943.

### SLA fighters attack Hizbollah base

Meanwhile a force of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia attacked a base of pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim extremists in South Lebanon Thursday, an SLA-run radio station said.

## Arabs condemn British media reporting on Iraq

LONDON (AP) — The Arab League's London mission Thursday condemned British news coverage of Iraq in the week a London-based journalist was hanged in Baghdad as a spy.

A statement from the office of the League of Arab States said the Council of Arab Ambassadors in London met Tuesday and

condemned what it called "the hostile British media campaign against Iraq which has used its legitimate right to safeguard its security and sovereignty against espionage on its military bases."

Iraq executed Iranian-born journalist Farzad Bazoft on March 15 after a closed trial at which he was convicted of spying for a foreign power when he went to the Al Iskandaria Military

acting openly and with the knowledge of the Iraqi government. Editor Donald Treford insists that a confession by Bazoft was extracted under duress.

Newspapers, the government and legislators joined in criticising the execution.

The Arab League statement Thursday said the council was accustomed to hostile media attitudes against Arab countries. But it said the past week's reporting on Iraq "has in fact raised many questions about the implications and aims" of the alleged campaign and the news media's "violent reaction from the outset without looking into facts and seeking the truth."

"In reviewing this regrettable attitude, the council registered its solidarity with Iraq and expressed its denunciation of this convulsive attitude of the British media which is incompatible with democratic norms and journalistic fair play," it said.

## Turkey on alert for increased Kurdish violence

ANKARA (R) — Turkey is on alert for increased Kurdish separatist violence after the most costly start to any year since fighting erupted in mid-1984.

"This is a critical year for the PKK (Kurdish Workers Party). The year is going to be very active for them," an official Turkish source said Friday.

"They failed in 1989 to achieve their long-stated aim of forming a liberated area in Turkey. Now they feel they have to do something to gain the upper hand."

Turkey believes the Marxist PKK, whose guerrilla campaign has resulted in more than 2,000 deaths, is at least tacitly supported in the latest fighting by its southern neighbours Iraq and Syria.

It is also concerned that the PKK may be forging links with Turkish leftists to help widen operations at present confined to a mountainous southeastern region about half the size of Italy.

A total of 78 rebels, troops and civilians have been reported killed since Jan. 1, compared with only 16 in the first three months of last year.

Some Ankara-based diplomats believe pro-Kurdish sentiment, including university demonstrations, will grow unless the government liberalises some of its policies towards Kurds.

"There is increasing popular resentment," an Asian diplomat said. "Pro-Kurdish demonstrations will expand unless something is done. The government fears events might get out of hand."

Turkey, which has the second biggest armed forces in NATO, does not regard its estimated 10 million Kurds — about one-fifth of the country's population — as a minority.

The PKK claims southeastern Turkey as part of an ancient Kurdish homeland stretching into Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Troops, backed by tanks, im-

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

### No progress reported in Afghan talks

HELSINKI (AP) — U.S. and Soviet delegations have ended two days of talks on Afghanistan, but made no progress toward a political settlement, the chief U.S. negotiator said. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly also said the Soviet Union is giving military supplies worth \$300 million a month to the Afghan government. The Soviet delegation was not available to comment on the outcome of the talks. On arriving in Helsinki Tuesday, Soviet delegate Yuri Alekseyev said he brought "a package of new proposals" on Afghanistan to present to the U.S. delegation. Despite the lack of progress, Kelly told reporters the discussions were "useful and constructive." The Soviet position was announced by (Foreign Minister Eduard) Shevardnadze in February and I cannot comment on the Soviet view," Kelly said. "Difficult and complex questions are involved. We reached no agreements in the talks," he said. Kelly declined to outline the main differences between the two countries.

### Joint Yemeni cabinet approves draft laws

ADEN (R) — A joint North and South Yemeni cabinet meeting ended three days of discussions by approving several draft laws for a reunited Yemen due by November, an official announcement said. The drafts relate to customs, taxes, banks, trade unions, passports, diplomatic representation and foreigners' residence. The announcement said a competition would be held to choose an emblem and a national anthem for the new country. It was agreed that women would have the right to occupy leading government positions depending on their qualifications and experience, it added. A similar meeting — the third of its kind — will be held in May in North Yemen's capital Sanaa where the first gathering took place last month.

### Israeli soldiers beat Reuter photographer

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (R) — Israeli soldiers punched and kicked Reuter photographer Hava Krak Levison Thursday after he took pictures of them detaining two Palestinians in a roundup of suspected protesters. The army spokesman, informed of the incident, issued an apology and promised an investigation. Soldiers in charge of the area later ordered the release of the two detained Palestinians, aged 11 and 17, said by residents to have been studying at home. Levison, a 47-year-old Israeli, suffered an injured hip and hand during the attack by about 10 soldiers and civilians, who had been in two mini-buses which were stoned near Ramallah in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The photographer was rescued by two Israeli policemen and reporters who had been following in another car. The army has sought to restrict coverage of the occupied territories since the start of the 27-month-old Palestinian uprising.

### Rajavi calls on U.N. to withdraw report

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq-based Iranian opposition leader Masoud Rajavi called on the U.N. secretary-general to withdraw a report which he said glossed over human rights abuses by the Tehran government. In the report following his visit to Tehran in January, U.N. human rights investigator Reynaldo Galindo Pohl said he was unable to substantiate accusations by Rajavi's Mujahideen Khalq that Iran was systematically executing political dissidents. "I request that your excellency speedily intervene and adopt a stance to erase the detrimental consequences of the report," Rajavi said in a text to U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar, made available to Reuters in Baghdad. Tehran has agreed to allow Pohl back in later in the year and some political observers in the Middle East considered he toned down criticism of Iran in the report to facilitate his return.

### Qadhafi: CIA created and spread AIDS

BEIRUT (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has told a conference on family issues that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) created the disease AIDS under a germ warfare programme. The Libyan News Agency (JANA) said Thursday Qadhafi was speaking at the opening session of the international conference for the Arab and Foreign family, held Wednesday in the town of Benghazi. JANA, monitored in Lebanon, quoted Qadhafi as saying the CIA tested an experimental virus on prisoners. The virus, causing acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), was spread round the world when the prisoners left jail, Qadhafi said.

## Fadlallah speaks of 'new' hostage situation

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's most influential Shi'ite Muslim cleric Friday spoke of a "new situation" regarding the fate of the Western hostages held by pro-Iranian underground factions in Lebanon.

However, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, the reputed mentor of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, or Party of God, said he had no specific information about when any of the hostages might be freed.

Most of the 18 Westerners missing are believed held by Shi'ite Muslim groups loyal to Iran.

A terse statement released by Fadlallah's office said the cleric, asked about the possibility of a hostage release in a radio interview, replied: "A new situation has emerged, but I don't know when, how and where."

No further remarks on the issue were included in the release.

Also Friday, the weekly magazine Ash Shiraa said that Fadlallah had replied through an intermediary to questions from former U.S. President Jimmy Carter on the issue.

It said the questions dealt with the hostages' whereabouts and the possibility of releasing them, but the story gave no specific

examples.

Fadlallah visited Damascus during Carter's visit to the Syrian capital earlier this month. Diplomatic sources have said the two did not meet.

Fadlallah said in a sermon on Feb. 23 that the issue of the Western captives was being exploited to distort Islam's image and called for a humanitarian approach to free them.

His remarks echoed an earlier editorial in the English-language Tehran Times newspaper in Iran, which often reflects the thinking of President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The past month has seen a series of contradictory statements over the fate of the hostages, indicating a fight over the issue within the Tehran government.

Moderates led by Rafsanjani have said the hostage issue was moving toward a solution, while radicals led by parliament member Ali Mohammad Mohtashemi have encouraged the captors to hold onto the hostages.

The radicals are believed to hold more sway over the factions in Lebanon actually holding the Westerners, with Hizbollah considered an umbrella group for them.

The Revolutionary Justice Organisation, which holds two of

the eight American hostages, said in a statement on March 7 no hostages will be freed.

Addressing Fadlallah, without referring to him by name, the statement expressed sorrow over "irresponsible declarations by local friends" to free the hostages.

"We call upon them (friends) to concentrate their humanitarian attempts on areas that can be more positive," the statement added.

Besides the Americans, the Westerners missing include four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

In another report, Ash Shiraa said alleged U.S.-Iranian negotiations have "reached their final stages after agreement was reached on almost all topics, including the issue of the foreign hostages."

"What's left is only carrying out the agreement according to acceptable scenarios that would save face for Iran and guarantee for Washington... its return to strategically vital Iran," the report added without detailing the source of its report.

Ash Shiraa's frequent reports over the past two years that a hostage release was imminent have not proved accurate. The

magazine gained international recognition in 1987 for breaking the story that the Reagan administration was trading arms for American hostages.

Both Iran and the United States have denied a spate of recent reports that there were any direct negotiations between the two governments on the hostage issue.

Iran has said it is not interested in renewing ties with the United States.

In Washington, a congressional panel passed a resolution Thursday that calls on President George Bush to speed up efforts to secure the immediate release of American hostages in Lebanon.

The measure, initially sponsored by Congressman Louise Slaughter of New York, was approved unanimously by the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Slaughter had asked Congress to pass a measure that would require Bush to appoint a special envoy to work for the hostages' freedom. But the administration as well as some members of Congress said the appointment of a special envoy would confuse efforts already under way to free the hostages.

## Hungary stops charter flights for Soviet Jews

TEL AVIV (R) — Hungary halted charter flights carrying Soviet Jews to Israel Thursday because of a bomb threat, the Hungarian embassy said.

Israel vowed to carry the migrants on its own planes.

"The Hungarian airline has stopped its chartered flights to Israel because the Islamic Jihad threatened the airline, saying that it would blow up its planes," said Ganos Vvri, third secretary at the Hungarian embassy in Tel Aviv.

Vvri said a bomb threat from Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, an underground group in Lebanon, was received on March 16 and officials of the state airline Malev in Budapest decided to suspend the charter flights as of Thursday.

Scheduled flights between Israel and Hungary would continue, Vvri added.

At the Jewish agency, the semi-governmental office in charge of bringing immigrants to Israel, spokesman Gad Ben Ari said:

"The decision will not affect the number of Jews coming to Israel from the Soviet Union. Israeli planes will replace the planes of the Hungarian flights."

Israeli officials expect up to 100,000 Soviet immigrants to arrive

this year following liberalisation of travel by President Mikhail Gorbachev and limits on immigration by the United States.

Ben Ari said the arrangement by which the Hungarian airline had been flying chartered planes to Israel once or twice a week was less than a month old. Israel's national airline, El Al, would replace the Malev flights, he added.

The flood of Soviet Jews has angered Arabs who fear the newcomers will settle in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On Tuesday the main Palestine Liberation Organisation group, Fateh, asked the Soviet Union to stop all Jewish emigration to Israel.

Israel has stepped up security at immigrant hostels in the Jewish state and taken precautions at East European airports where Soviet Jews stop on their way to Israel.

The Soviet government has not implemented an accord for direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv.

"I hope this decision will make the Russians realise that direct flights will not only be easier and more convenient, but safer," Ben Ari said.

The Soviet airline Aeroflot stopped selling tickets on its routes to Israel via Budapest to Soviet Jews leaving to take up permanent residence in Israel, Soviet television, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), reported.

"The sale of tickets to passengers departing for permanent residence in Israel has been stopped from March 22, 1990 for the routes Moscow-Budapest-Tel Aviv, Leningrad-Budapest-Tel Aviv and Kiev-Budapest-Tel Aviv," an Aeroflot announcement said.

The move did not apply to passengers who had already purchased tickets and had confirmed their seat bookings, nor to those with a guest visa or on return business trips, Soviet television said.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "If these reports are correct... this is certainly a surrender to pressure by threats of Arab terror."

He told Army Radio Israel was pressing Hungary to reconsider its decision but vowed nothing would stop Soviet immigration to the Jewish state.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, concerned that the Hungarian decision would disrupt im-

migration efforts, met Immigration and Foreign Ministry officials who had demanded an explanation from Hungary's ambassador to Israel.

Israeli officials wished to know if the decision was made by the airline or the government so they could clarify if it was based on political or security concerns.

"It is important to know who took the decision because we will react accordingly," said Avi Pazner, aide to Shamir.

At the Jewish Agency, the semi-governmental office in charge of bringing immigrants to Israel, Director-General Moshe Nativ said:

"It's a real fear of terrorism but it has political connections. We didn't think a government would give in so quickly to the Arab side."

Istvan Komoroczki, first consul to the Hungarian embassy in Israel, told Reuters his government hoped the decision would not harm newly restored Israeli-Hungarian relations.

The two nations renewed diplomatic ties last September after a 22-year break over the 1967 Middle East war.

Israeli officials said the suspension of charter flights highlighted the need for direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

11:42 ..... Dabur

15:11 ..... 'Asr

17:53 ..... Maghreb

19:18 ..... Isha

### PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Koran

15:40 ..... Programme review

15:45 ..... Children programme

17:30 ..... Educational programme

18:00 ..... News summary

18:05 ..... Message from Iraq

18:25 ..... A play by Shakespeare

19:10 ..... Local programme

19:30 ..... Programme review

20:00 ..... News in Arabic

20:30 ..... Arabic series

21:30 ..... Programme review

21:40 ..... Consumer's Guide

22:25 ..... Local programme

23:00 ..... News in Arabic

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:20 ..... Champs Elysees

19:00 ..... News in French

19:15 ..... Documentary

19:30 ..... News in Hebrew

20:00 ..... News in Arabic

20:30 ..... Did's Comedy Show

21:30 ..... Encounter

21:30 ..... Classical Music

22:30 ..... News in English

22:30 ..... Feature Film: "Man Without a Star"

### PRAYER TIMES

06:13 ..... Fair

05:31 ..... (Summer) Daba

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swidish, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Assumption Tel. 637400

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrazas Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assiut International Church Tel. 683236

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hussein Haddad ..... 731267

Dr. Mufred Tannous ..... 894480

Dr. Saeed Abu Hatab ..... 746684

Dr. Mohammad Al Abdadi ..... 778599

Firas pharmacy ..... 661912

Ferdous pharmacy ..... 778336

Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637055

Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672

Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730

Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945

Shameel pharmacy ..... 637660

BRID:

Dr. Ahmad Balajawi ..... (-)

Al Sharran pharmacy ..... (983236)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ismail Abdul Salam ..... (-)

Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111

Civil Defence Emergency ..... 630341

Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 457777

Fire Brigade ..... 821228

Blood Bank ..... 775121

Highway Police ..... 243402

Traffic Police ..... 896390

Public Security Department ..... 630321

Hotel Complaints ..... 608800





Her Majesty Queen Zein, the Queen Mother, Thursday poses with the children of the Mabarrat Um Al Hussein orphanage (Petra photo)

## Queen Mother patronises orphanage ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — A special mother's day ceremony was held at the Al Hussein Youth City in Amman on Thursday to honour Her Majesty Queen Zein, the Queen Mother. The ceremony was organised by the Mabarrat Um Al Hussein (orphanage) and attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and an audience of invited guests who included wives of diplomatic representatives in Jordan.

Among the speakers at the ceremony was one of the orphan children who expressed the school's deep appreciation to the Queen Mother for patronising the orphanage, its various activities and vocational training programmes.

The Queen Mother, who was presented with a token gift, was among members of the audience who announced donations to promote the orphanage's programmes.

## Badran begins visit to south today



Mudar Badran

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran will embark Saturday on a three-day tour of the southern regions of Jordan that will take him to the governorates of Karak, Tafleeh and Maan, severely hit by drought. Accompanied by a number of Cabinet members, the prime minister will first visit Dhiban and Bani Hamideh districts to learn about the local population's needs, and then he will go to Karak for a meeting with the governor, heads of various local organisations and trade unions representing various sectors.

The meetings will be attended by members of the Lower House of Parliament representing the Karak constituency and the neighbouring badia district. Badran is also scheduled to meet citizens representing the southern Jordan Valley region and will tour the potash and phosphate plants.

Sunday the prime minister and the accompanying delegation will go to Tafleeh Governorate for similar meetings, and Monday he will go to Maan where meetings will be held with local officials and representatives of the governorate.

Questions related to agriculture and farming will be among the main issues for discussion. The ministers of agriculture, culture, labour and tourism who are expected to accompany Badran on his tour, Wednesday paved the way for the prime minister's visits by touring a number of regions within the Madaba area including Bani Hamideh and Dhiban where they received requests for improvement of the local residents' general conditions.

Two Jordanian institutions last week announced that they were allocating JD 1 million each in emergency aid to relieve drought stricken farmers in the southern regions of the country.

The allocations were made by the National Aid Fund and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company following the publication of a ministerial committee report about the plight of the southern region hit by the drought. The drought was said to have caused shortages in animal feed, high production cost of agricultural products and lower income for local farmers.

On the eve of the prime minister's visit, the Jordan News Agency, Petra published interviews with the Karak governor and the director of the agricultural cooperation department in Karak. Both officials stressed upon the adverse influence of the drought in the south.

In the interview released by Petra Friday, the Governor Ismail Duheiman said altogether rain fall was estimated at 217 millimetres in Karak, 210 in Rabbeh, 197 in Mazar, 166 in Qaser and 149 in Ghweir during the present rainy season, down by almost half the amount of rain that fell in these regions in 1989.

"The shortage of rainfall has adversely affected animal farms as well as agriculture in the southern regions," Duheiman said.

The governor, however, noted that the government had responded quickly providing additional amounts of animal feed to the stockbreeders, drilling artesian wells, opening the state-owned pasture land for livestock and reclaiming lands for cereal production.

## Prime minister asks ministries, departments not to exceed allocation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran has issued a 12-point communique calling on all ministries, government departments and public institutions to adhere to the 1990 budget law and not to make any payment in excess of the approved allocations.

The communique also called on them to fully adhere to all financial circulars and directives organising the dispensing of public funds, and to coordinate with the General Budget Department in programming their current and capital expenses.

This measure is aimed at ensuring that the expenses are in line with the purposes for which the allocations were made, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. However, all the departments concerned will be asked to furnish the controller and the audit commission with copies of their expenditure plans, Petra said.

The communique called on the various departments to exercise control over their spending in areas like electricity and water consumption and fuel. The communique held the Tenders Committees responsible for ensuring that tender allocations are available before offering tenders and that tender value should not exceed the budgeted allocations.

The communique urged the various departments to provide the General Budget Department with monthly reports on their financial situations.

The communique called on departments and public institutions marking any additional revenues, which are not credited to the treasury, by virtue of special rules and regulations in force at these institutions to supply the department with statement showing scope of expenditure of such additional amounts.

## Egypt to provide its expertise in oil, gas

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team of technicians from the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources will visit Jordan soon to offer the Kingdom the benefit of Egypt's experience in oil prospecting and natural gas production. The team is cooperating with the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), which is in charge of oil and gas production in the Kingdom, according to an announcement by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher.

Speaking upon his return from Egypt, the minister said the Egyptian team would also discuss with NRA prospects for launching joint projects in oil and gas fields in the future within the context of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which also groups Iraq and North Yemen besides Jordan and Egypt.

Taher, who held talks in Cairo with Minister of Electricity Maher Abaza on the on-going project of linking the national grids of Jordan and Egypt, said that a meeting by ACC ministers responsible for energy and electricity would be held here in June to draw up plans for cooperation among the four countries.

Among the questions discussed with Abaza was linking the central computer system of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) with that of the Egyptian Electricity Authority in preparation for the linkage of the national grids, which will be a four-year project ending in 1993.

Abaza said in Cairo Thursday that the linkage would save up to \$100 million for the two countries annually.

The minister also said that his ministry was ready to provide Jordanian technicians with further training in Egypt in power generation and in exploiting renewable energy resources.

"A survey at the Aqaba gulf and the Suez Canal zones later this month to pave the ground for the laying of submarine cables as part of the network that would link the two countries' grids," Abaza said.

The linkage will be partly financed by a \$170 million loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

## 'Greens' dominate agriculture engineers

By Mariam M. Shalhin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian Agriculture Engineers Association Friday held its 14th election since 1966, and appeared to be headed for voting in a pan-Arabist and leftist executive committee.

By press time, results for the association's president and vice president had come in. Green bloc candidate Ghaleb Abu Oraibi won the presidency with 450 votes out of the 896 ballots cast, and running mate Mohammad Abu Ayyash won the vice-presidency with 425 votes.

The obvious low turnout — there are 1,243 registered voters and an estimated 3,000 agriculture engineers in the Kingdom — marked what could be the beginning of a new era for the association, which has been run by the White-Islamist bloc for the past six years.

Although the membership fee for the association is JD 12 per year, a payment of JD 120 to a pension plan as a prerequisite for voting eligibility was seen as a main deterrent by many, voters said Friday.

High unemployment, low salaries and "lack of a strong syndicate" was seen as main reasons for apathy among the association members.

There are 350 unemployed agriculture engineers, according to association sources.

Although there have been two blocs that have traditionally dominated the association's electoral scene, a third was recently formed. The independent bloc is composed of a mixture of Arab nationalists, Islamists and independents, but claims to have a new set of solutions for the association's members.

## Leftists, centrists vie for control of banking, insurance staff

By Sana Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Employees from banks, insurance companies and accounting firms went to the polls Friday to elect office bearers of the Jordan Banks and Insurance Employees Association (JBIEA).

Participants and observers predicted the leftist "national bloc" to have a stronger chance of winning the 11 seats in the general committee of the association.

The results of the elections were expected to emerge after midnight Friday.

Voters and observers speculated the "national bloc" — a coalition of leftist groups to win the 11 seats against the "renewal and change bloc," which is mainly non-political in nature.

For the first time in the history of JBIEA since its establishment and reestablishment in 1961 and 1972 respectively, leftist groups are running as one bloc rather than competing against each other, thus having a stronger chance of winning, according to the president of the association, Haider Rashid.

Rashid told the Jordan Times that his "national bloc" had become stronger since uniting his forces, which include Marxists and pan-Arab nationalists, and he expected the bloc to win.

"National bloc" supporters interviewed by the Jordan Times said that the bloc was stronger, fielding 11 candidates run whereas the "renewal bloc" had only four, three of whom were described as independents.

"It is a mature attitude and a relief to find the leftist and nationalist forces of the association unite in the same bloc

for the elections," said the branch manager of a bank. It makes it easier for us to vote for them all together rather than trying to choose from elsewhere.

Another bank employee, Hatem Salameh, said that being more organised and knowing the candidates well gives the national bloc a stronger chance to win.

The "renewal bloc" was also optimistic about winning. Jamal Ayyad, a member of the newly-formed Jordan Progressive Party (JPP) which broke away from the Communist Party and who is running in the "renewal bloc," said the four members had a good chance to win if all the members of the association voted.

"The principle of our bloc is to concentrate on the problems of employees and ensure fair wages, especially at a time when economic problems are part of everyone's life in Jordan," Ayyad told the Jordan Times.

He added that his bloc was more concerned with making the association become active in involving all the employees of the sector, "the ordinary people," rather than being "a political party association."

Ayyad accused the previous leadership of the JBIEA of not being able to gain more than 3,000 members in the association, "although there are no less than 25,000 employees eligible for membership in their association."

"These people had not been interested in becoming part of the JBIEA because they felt that it was not dealing with their labour problems, but rather with political parties," he said.

"That's why our slogan is 'the association for all,' and the other three running in our bloc

are independents but believe in this slogan," Ayyad explained. There are 2,927 eligible voters in the JBIEA, and both blocs were depending on a large majority of members to cast their votes, if not all.

Rashid, who was the president of the association from 1972 to 1984, and from 1986 to 1990, said he did not believe that there was "much competition" between his bloc and the "renewal bloc."

"If people vote for all the 11 candidates in the national bloc then our alliance will definitely succeed. Despite the fact that we will win, I don't believe that the actual results will reflect the reality of our strength against the 'renewal bloc,'" Rashid commented.

Organising the alliance of the national bloc was one of the reasons the JBIEA elections was postponed from January, according to Yousef Hurumi of the bloc.

Both blocs include one female candidate each. Maisa Naffa, who is running in the "national bloc," unsuccessfully ran for the association elections in 1985.

"But I'm more optimistic this year because of our alliance. In 1985 our forces were not united," Naffa told the Jordan Times.

She added that the JBIEA was different from other associations in that women participation was more active and have chances of winning in the elections, "hoping it sets a precedent for the women's union movement in Jordan."

Even in the 1960s, there was only one woman, Emily Naffa, who successfully won in the JBIEA elections, at a time when women hardly participated in labour and professional unions," Naffa said.

## Accountants focus on raising standards

By Sana Abu Hawaj  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Accounting may not exactly be the most fascinating subject to be read about or discussed at length since most people see it as an occupational hazard which cannot be avoided in our daily lives. But, a recent conference held in Amman has brought out an emphasis on how those in the accounting profession, how they can improve their skills and how they raise themselves and their profession to international levels.

The second Arab international accounting conference on education and qualifying Arab accountants ended Friday and named March 20 as the Annual Day for Arab accountants. This is the day on which Jordan recognised certificates issued by the Arab Society of Certified Accountants. The conference, which lasted three days, hosted lecturers from Jordan, Kuwait, the U.S., Canada and West Germany. One of the lecturers was Jordanian-American Edward J. Gress, who is a professor of accounting and chairman of the department of accounting at Talal Abu Gazeleh (TAG) centre for business research at Canisius College in New York.

Gress, who is also a founder of the Arab Management Society (AMS), explained to the Jordan Times that the main aims of every accounting programme course are to prepare graduates to become good citizens, good businessmen as well as good accountants. "In order to create these qualities in accountants, the curriculum should train students to acquire four skills: communication skills, accounting skills, business skills and interpersonal skills."

Gress added that accounting courses at Arab universities contain only one half of the required course work in the field of accounting. Students of accountancy in the Arab World are often taught to memorise instead of analysing and using creative problem-solving skills, Gress said. "The focus in accountancy education should be on developing analytical and conceptual skills versus memorisation. The educational aim should be emphasised on developing life-long learning skills rather than immediate skills."

Gress suggested that one third of the accounting course taught should include business subjects, such as management and marketing, as well as general knowledge in order for the trainee to have an appreciation of and make a contribution to the cultural values of his/her environment.

The Arab Society for Certified Accountants (ASCA), which has become a full member of the International Federation of Accountants, has set up its own examinations to qualify Arab accountants for entry into the profession. "The future of Arab accounting education will without any doubt depend to a large degree on the type of examination and the qualifications for membership that the society will require of its aspiring members," Gress said.

The conference agreed on holding the third ASCA conference in the second half of November 1993 in Cairo.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

### Crown Prince meets Pakistani team

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received at the Royal Court Thursday a delegation representing the Pakistani Staff and Command College currently on a visit to Jordan. Prince Hassan reviewed with the delegation the situation in the Middle East and issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by the Jordanian ambassador to Pakistan and the Pakistani military attaché in Amman.

### Faqir heads for Turkey

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqir left for Turkey Friday at the head of a Jordanian delegation. Faqir will discuss with Turkish officials issues related to Turkish pilgrims' transit through Jordan this season and religious affairs of mutual concern.

### Ceremonies mark Karameh Battle

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan on Thursday organised festivals and ceremonies in a number of towns in commemoration of the Karameh Battle of 1968 which occurred near the town of Karameh in the central Jordan Valley region. Prime Minister Mudar Badran delegated Minister of Culture Khaled Karaki to attend one of the festivals held at the Greco-Roman archaeological town of Jerash. Schoolchildren and members of youth organisations staged national songs and dances at the ancient site attended by Karaki and local officials. The minister later attended another ceremony held at the site of the battle in the Jordan Valley and laid a wreath at a memorial set up to commemorate the martyrs who fell in the battle.

### Bridge timings revised

AMMAN (J.T.) — Bridges across the river Jordan will open at seven in the morning and close at 12 noon as of Sunday, March 25, 1990, the Public Security Department (PSD) said Friday. The new arrangement, it said, was needed to synchronise travel across the bridges to and from the occupied territories with the Israeli side which on Sunday will switch to summertime. Jordan's switch to summertime is not expected until the end of April.

### Jordan-Syria free zone reviews plans

DER'A (Petra) — The general assembly of the Jordanian-Syrian free zone company held a meeting Thursday at the company's headquarters in Der'a, Syria, under the chairmanship of Jordanian audit Bureau President Hashem Al Dabbas and in the presence of Ahmad Dabbas, assistant to the Syrian minister of supply and internal trade. The meeting dwelt on ways to promote and activate investments and reviewed the activities of the assembly last year.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of plastic artists Arij Al Hamad and Ibrahim Al Nabekneh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdal Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Spanish contemporary engravings" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ The spring exhibition of Bani Hamida women's weaving project at the Bani Hamida House - Jabal Amman, Rainbow Street.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Isam Tawadi at Alia Art Gallery — 5:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "Investigations Concerning the Early Periods of the Northern Delta of Egypt" by Dr. Thomas von der Way at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

### THEATRE

- ★ Arabic puppet play entitled "Fables from my Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

## Journalists react sharply to attack

(Continued from page 1)

Mustafa Abu Libdeh, the Amman-based correspondent of Kuwait's Al Siyassah newspaper and member of the Jordan Press Association, said one can look at the issue from two different perspectives: "There is the right of the press to acquire information and the deputy's duty to abide by decisions of the House."

According to Abu Libdeh, the House has the right to "prosecute the deputy who leaked the information but to harass the press is something that is not even allowed by law."

He called for quick measures to define the limits and responsibilities of the press and as well as their role in the Press and Publications Law.

He also called for "uplifting the standard of democratic education to clarify that access to information is the right of the press."

Al Shaab Editor-in-Chief Sultan Hattab argued that as long as the secrets being published by newspapers "do not touch on national security

no one can limit that right."

He explained that the secret deliberations of the House "do not touch on this concept, especially if we believe in democracy and the right of expression."

"The journalist has to look for information and if it is not given to him he has to dig for it," Hattab said. Al Ra'i columnist, Bader Abdul Haq reminded the House that the "leakage was from inside the house, and the reporter who was able to get the information is an excellent reporter and cannot be blamed for doing his job."

He agreed that the "deputies who leaked the information are solely responsible for the results."

Foreign correspondents based in the Kingdom also spoke about their impression of the controversy and drew a parallel between freedom of the press in Jordan and the effectiveness of the press in their respective countries.

An Amman-based British journal-

ist said as far as journalists were concerned their duty is to seek information and make it public irrespective of the consequences.

"It is not the problem of the press to suppress information. If the government and legislators failed to keep their meetings secret then it is their problem," said the journalist who preferred not to be quoted by name.

He said the British parliament never convened "closed" sessions and its deliberations are always quotable by the press. Certain hearings of parliament committees, however, would be held in a closed session if the topics discussed were deemed sensitive. But the journalist stressed that the closed sessions in Britain would not prevent journalists from seeking leaked information.

"The press quotes anything which takes place in parliament unless it contradicts with libel laws" which prohibit publishing names of would-be suspects unless they have been brought to court on legal grounds.

(Continued from page 1)

Zreikat, Salameh Ghuweiri, Mohammad Abu 'Adein, Nayef Hadid, Sultan Adwan, Mohammad Dardour, Salim Zou'bi, Ahmad Anab, Sand Haddadin, Samir Kassar, Hosni Shihab and Nayef Abu Tayeh.

Deputy Hussein Mjallil supported Srou's statement and went further to describe the leak itself as "a case of administrative corruption that requires an investigation."

Mjallil, a former president of the Jordan Bar Association, lamented that newspapers published contents of the Finance Committee's report before it as distributed to deputies Thursday.

Deputy Fakhri Kassar, a journalist, congratulated Al Ra'i for its "scoop" and described the publication of the session's deliberations as "a legitimate act" and "a victory for the people who ruled that we must work in the open."

He elaborated: "The people are

the ones who asked for a trial of the corrupt and the corrupted and asked us to reveal financial and administrative corruption in the country."

Kassar said the decision taken by newspaper to publish the story was a "lesson we must learn and an example that supports the premise that openness must be the characteristic of our work so that we avoid the anger of citizens — the main party concerned and the source of all powers."

Deputy Bassam Haddadin supported Kassar and expressed his satisfaction of the action by the press. "I appreciate this journalistic scoop although it was not in accordance with the House's decision."

He proposed that the House's secretariat issue a press release following each closed session "so that citizens are informed about our discussions."

Clearly upset by Kassar's and Haddadin's implicit condemnation of supporters of secrecy, Deputy Abdul Hafiz Alawi said angrily that supporters of secrecy were being so in the

interest of people rather than to hide the truth. He also vaguely mentioned the question of faith and its relevance to the matter which prompted Alawi to declare his statement scratched out of the House's transcripts.

Based on the proposal by 10 deputies to set up an investigation committee Alawi called a vote and after a quick look at the House, declared that the proposal gained a majority support though no vote counting was made. Observers said it was at least "not clear" whether the proposal gained a majority support.

Deputy Fares Nabulsi, clearly dismayed at the House's decision, questioned the wisdom and feasibility of opening an investigation of deputies. Deputy Awad Bakir echoed the same view, and asked whether the House can also investigate the prime minister and Cabinet members who were present during Tuesday's session.

Deputy Inab asked for whoever divulged information to "declare himself and apologise before the House."



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## Swift action on corruption is the key

THERE ARE many valid and persuasive reasons to argue that the deliberations of the Lower House of Parliament on the issue of corruption and financial mismanagement in our public institutions should have been conducted in an open session rather than in secret as the House did last week. After all, corruption and questions related to financial mismanagement have been simmering in our midst for many years, and this was one of the major reasons for our economic ills. And as long as this internal conflict continues to remain under wraps, it also has the potential to grow into an uncontrollable monster which would sap the Kingdom's energy and resources.

Judging from the magnitude of the corruption debacle, the lesser of the two evils as far as policy is concerned dictates that surgical treatment of the cancer be immediately carried out. The direct impact of such exposure of this major domestic issue will at least have a cleansing effect on the economic, fiscal, social and political fabrics of our country.

But, having opted for a secret session to study the issue, the swift revelations of the minutes of the session in the press made a mockery of the House's wisdom to go behind closed doors. The first fallout of the affair cast doubts on the integrity of secret parliamentary debates on any issue whether related to public welfare, order, security or anything else.

What exacerbated this deviation from parliamentary norms was probably a growing fear that the country may be on the brink of a policy of witch-hunting bordering on an arbitrary inquisition running wild. Yet what has already been done, along with the rationale behind divulging details of the secret House session on corruption and financial mismanagement, could be attributable to the thirst of the public to expose the real nature of the problem. In actual terms, it might not have been possible to keep the lid of secrecy on the debate for too long even if all members of the House and those who attended the session in other capacities had observed the code of secrecy.

For one thing, the rumour mill in town would have rife with speculation, exploiting the sensitiveness of the subject to the extent that the victims would have been public welfare and individual credibilities.

Given the realities of the situation, the legislative, executive and judicial authorities should now engage in a collective damage control process by speeding up investigations into the cases of corruption and seeking to bring all guilty parties to justice as soon as possible with a view to recovering at least part of any stolen funds.

In light of the urgency of the cases expected to reach the stage of prosecution, there might be no escape from putting into effect special procedures for the purpose. Problems would of course remain, but at least the government will have done its best to hasten the full exposure of the corruption crisis before its fallouts get to be more serious and damaging to all of us.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily mocked a statement by Israel's foreign minister in which he claimed that the PLO was responsible for the killing of Palestinians and the sufferings of 200 Palestinian families who lost some of their members during the ongoing intifada. The paper said that Israel aims to distort the PLO's image and draw a wedge between the Palestinians and their legitimate leadership. The whole world realises that it is Israel which is responsible for the sufferings of the Palestinian people and that Israel had been disregarding all United Nations resolutions and ignoring all appeals from various nations to reach peace with the Arabs and to grant the Palestinians their legitimate rights, the paper noted. It said that the Israeli-planned Jewish immigration into the occupied Arab territories which is designed to uproot the Palestinians and settle the Jews on their land has been condemned by the European Community, the Soviet Union and the former American President Jimmy Carter. These condemnations are sufficient to tell the world the true story about the situation and the conditions of the Arab people under Israeli rule. It said most of all the people of Palestine who are now involved in an uprising to secure their rights and freedom will continue to be vigilant and capable of thwarting Israel's designs.

Abdul Razzak Omar is one of a group of columnists in the local press to warmly welcome the government's decision to set up investigation committee that will embark on probing into the corruption cases before referring the culprits to trial. The writer says that Parliament members in general and the financial committee at the Lower House in particular are to be commended for their brave decision in demanding that the government start investigations. Only through such action can the government retrieve the stolen funds and can put an end to any future abuse of power and authority, the writer notes. By exposing the responsible elements for corruption, the government will be enhancing the ethics and the principles of good conduct among the civil servants and government employees; and at the same time increase confidence in this country and its laws especially among the Jordanian expatriates who are investing in their home country, Omar states. The writer pays tribute to the Central Bank of Jordan for its continued efforts to secure foreign exchange to support the Jordanian currency and expresses appreciation of the media and the press for calling public attention to the chronic problems that require urgent solutions. But, he says, that only through free and fair investigations and trials can justice be accomplished. The writer also proposes that the government offer the embezzlers and those who abused their authority to secure personal gains the chance to return the stolen funds within a limited period of time as a condition for not exposing them to public and sparing them any penalties as required by law.

## View from Amman

# The EC and the developing world

By Kamel Abu Jaber

I have just returned from an international symposium in Brussels on the subject of "European Community Agricultural Policy and Development Cooperation." The conference was convened by the Friedrich-Naumann Foundation of West Germany to consider the impact of the European Community's agricultural policies on the developing nations.

As the week-long conference proceeded, several aspects of the uneven relationship between the north and the south began to stand out. While the speakers and the delegates from the north spoke in specific terms, those from the south spoke principally in generalities. Those of the north were speaking from a position of strength, willing and able to concentrate on specific questions regarding their agricultural policies in general as well as specific questions dealing with individual trade and commodity items: sugar, coffee, cocoa, bananas, cereals... etc!

The plethora of problems, domestic and international facing the less developed countries (LDCs), reflected itself in the types of issues the dele-

gates emphasised and wished to discuss over and over again. We of the south wanted to know if the north was sincere in seeking ways of helping us solve our problems: Problems that surely transcend questions of price, trade facilities or barriers. Had that been one aim behind the convention of this conference those who called for it certainly received a strong response.

The problems of the LDCs woefully lagging behind the north, with the gap increasingly widening, seem with the passage of time to be increasing rather than decreasing. Part of the blame, no doubt lies with us. We have not done our homework, and we continue in our individual countries, and regions, with very few exceptions, to think that if the problem is ignored long enough, it will go away. As history amply explains, in such circumstances, problems not only do not disappear, but continue to grow. We have neither faced up to, nor decided upon any of the major problems facing our societies: population explosion, production rather than consumption, the very orientation, indeed the soul around which we wish

to build our societies, the nature of the political regime we want, democratisation and political participation. All of these and many others continue to be questions hanging in mid air, as if in suspended animation, in search of answers.

That the north may be calous to our plight might be true but it is, or seems at times, trying to help but it does not know how. We have not been able thus far to articulate our problems or where or how we need help. But then we are handicapped to begin with. Partly accounting for this condition is our relative newness, our relatively late entry into the modern world. Most of our countries hobbled into modernity in the wake of the World War II with many scars on our body politics, our society, our culture, indeed our very soul. Sometimes we think that all that has happened to us is the trading of old masters for new. Lashing back against our colonial experience, and in our frustrated anger with ourselves and the world at large for the conditions we find ourselves in, we have missed many

opportunities. Nor have we been blessed with steady forward looking leadership to help us in bridging the gap between traditionalism and modernity. All, or most of our regimes, are new creations grafted upon basically fragmented, even atomised societies with one foot firmly planted in traditionalism, and the other very tentatively attempting to tiptoe into modernity. Few of our regimes had any precedents, even written records to rely upon.

How can we compete with the world of the north? How can we negotiate? Indeed how can we communicate? While the north is already in the twenty first century, we are still grouping with medievalism.

We need help. We need it badly. We have already lost in terms of industry and technology. Whatever brains we have either immigrate to the north or are so alienated at home that they have stopped functioning properly. And now in considering the specific problem of the agricultural policies of the EEC, it is already evident that here too, even here, in agriculture where vast majorities of our people make a

living, we are also losing. Can we escape this terrific marginalisation of our lives? How? Do we have a future? What are its broad outlines? Most of the delegates who spoke emphasised that the future was bleak and getting bleaker. One delegate from the EEC countries frankly said, "Europe buys only that which it does not produce." In essence this means the further marginalisation of our lives agriculturally too. It means that Europe would buy certain fruits, nuts and various other luxury items that only embellish its table: bananas, tamarind, guava, chestnuts, coffee, tea, cocoa, cashews, exotic items for a sophisticated palate...

In introducing this cry for help we should remember that our whole societies in the south are still basically agricultural and that even in the north the farmers find themselves at such a disadvantage that they cannot compete and must receive subsidies and protection. Imagine the Kikuyu farmer, the Egyptian, the Indian or the Latin American peasant or peon. Is Europe, so close to us, so innocent of our problems that we cannot rightfully demand help? But then, we too

are not innocent of our own problems and should remember that "God helps those who help themselves." That is why we need some innovative and daring thinking: that goes beyond the mere accounting of gains and losses.

Our problems are global and in need of global not piecemeal answers. And while we need to restructure our economies, the north needs to restructure its values. It is not charity but mutuality of interest that should govern the equation. The quality of life they are seeking depends on our life, even our subsistence. The north sets the rules from its own logic and vantage point. It seems there is need for a change of attitude that will guarantee that while the wolf prospers, the sheep must not be allowed to perish. The delegate from Honduras put out aptly when he said, "We need resources, financial and otherwise which we do not have. How can we subsidise our agriculture like you do? When we wish to bring more arable land into cultivation we are reminded of the adverse effects this has on the ecology, the ozone layer... etc! What are we to do?"

## Globalism and class struggle

By Silvio Brucan

Professor Silvio Brucan, the political and diplomat, is well known in and outside Romania primarily as the man who challenged the Ceausescu regime years ago. In defiance of ruthless persecution, he carried on his uncompromising struggle for his country's freedom, for human dignity.

THE USSR makes full use of its great power status, playing a major role in world affairs and in the solution of international problems on all continents. China is equally acting as a great power, though its role and influence in world affairs is limited by its reduced economic and military potential. A number of socialist states that are less developed (e.g., China, Cuba, Vietnam, even Romania) have joined the Group of 77 developing nations struggling for a new international economic order, while Yugoslavia is one of the founders of the Non Aligned Movement.

Lenin warned that revolution in Russia or in less developed countries would not be enough; only revolution "at least in several advanced countries" could make socialism "capable of exercising a decisive influence upon world politics as a whole." However, the capitalist core in the West has survived the revolutionary sweeps in the wake of World War I and II, and is alive and kicking. Neither the formulation of foreign policy, nor the external behaviour of a socialist state originate in its domestic system alone. The international environment with its competitive dynamics and power game, play an important part in shaping foreign policy. We must reject the cosmetic verbiage about "the new type of relations" supposedly prevailing between socialist states that remind us of the early religious style of socialist egalitarianism.

Stalin's second theory that the world market is split into two world markets, one capitalist and the other socialist, has proven equally erroneous. Witness the effects on the Soviet economy and foreign trade balance of oil price fluctuations on the world market. As for Poland and Romania, Hungary and Yugoslavia, they have all been compelled to adopt belt-tightening measures to cope with the high interest rates set by Western banks and affecting foreign creditors.

In short, the world economy is a hierarchical system in which Western capitalism still enjoys a strong position that allows it to set the rules of the game on the world market, for better or for worse. Crises and recessions that cyclically beset the capitalist economy affect also socialist economies.

At the heart of Stalin's theoretical conception lies the postulate that the class struggle constitutes the decisive motive force not only in society, but also in international politics. On that basis, we are treated to a dichotomous image of a world made up of two rival camps, capitalism and socialism. There are, to be sure, theorists who still cling to such a reduction-

ist description of world politics and care very little that an increasing number of events, can no longer be integrated in their conceptual framework (starting with the effective alliance of the U.S., Britain and the USSR against Hitlerite Germany in World War II, and going to this day when U.S.-Soviet or U.S.-Chinese summits were easier to arrange than a Soviet-Chinese summit). Actually, they are unable to understand that the dynamic of inter-state relations differ from that of class relations. In society class struggle is the overriding factor in politics; in the international environment, it is not.

Finally, let us deal with globalism. At the time when Marx wrote Das Kapital, his global social system was national society, and it was in this context that he viewed the contradiction in the mode of production, the relation between base and superstructure, the class struggle, whereby the proletariat, to acquire political supremacy, must rise to be the leading class of the nation, must constitute itself the nation. Although Marx foresaw the gradual internationalisation of productive forces and human activities, his writings nevertheless reflect a historical age in which the European nation-states functioned as self-contained social systems, whose dynamics were basically and chiefly internal. External relations were secondary or even tertiary types of social relations.

Today we are dealing with a world system, global in scope, in which information is ubiquitous and instantaneous, communication universal, transportation super-sonic, and modern weaponry planetary both in delivery and destructive capability. The scientific-technological revolution has virtually changed the whole international environment and the relations between internal and external factors of politics. It is Mikhail Gorbachev's merit to have formulated the basic thesis: "The contemporary world for all profound contradictions and for all the radical differences among the countries that comprise it, is interrelated, interdependent and integral." To substantiate it, he mentioned the internationalisation of the world's economic ties, the comprehensive scope of the scientific-technological revolution, the issue of Earth's resources, the common environmental danger, and the crying social problems of the developing world which affect all of us. The main thing, however, is human survival, threatened by the tremendous development of nuclear weaponry. This theoretical conclusion opens up a new vista. This is not to say that the nation-state has ceased to be the chief actor on the international scene or that the contradiction between the two socio-economic systems, capitalism and socialism, no longer operates in international politics. They certainly continue to exist and to operate in world affairs, but their dynamics must now be integrated within a world system becoming more and more global — New Times, Moscow.

## The day the rabbi toppled the government

By Dan Petreanu  
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — The man who may decide who will head Israel's new government is an unlikely kingmaker, a 69-year-old rabbi better known for Torah scholarship than foreign policy.

Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, spiritual leader of the ultra-orthodox Shas party, already made his power felt when he put aside his daily task of guiding his flock and advised Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to accept U.S.-backed peace proposals.

Shamir said no, and Yosef then used his spiritual authority to topple Shamir's government by withholding the parliamentary votes of his Shas last Thursday.

Yosef's views angered his mostly right-wing followers — many of whom back Shamir's Likud party — and a few ran into his Jerusalem synagogue shouting "traitor."

A tug-of-war resulted in Shas, and the pressure produced an apparent turnaround in ultra-orthodox party's support for Labour. Still, Yosef's strong views on peace could decide whether Shas backs Labour or Likud.

In a rare television appearance Sunday, Yosef argued that he toppled Shamir's government because it could not make peace.

"You are inviting war if you

support such a government," said Yosef, dressed in traditional dark robes with gold embroidery and incongruous sunglasses that protect his light-sensitive eyes.

He called Shamir's government "the extremist of extremists" and argued "it would not have been able to give a positive reply" to

the U.S. plan for the first dialogue ever between Israelis and Palestinians.

"What would the nations of the world say then? These Israelis don't want peace, they want war," Yosef said. "And after war, when, God forbid, all the Arab states will rise up and make

war against us... how many will be killed? Who will account for the spilled blood?"

Yosef is a former Israeli chief rabbi of Sephardic Jews, those of Middle East or North African origin who now constitute a majority in Israel.

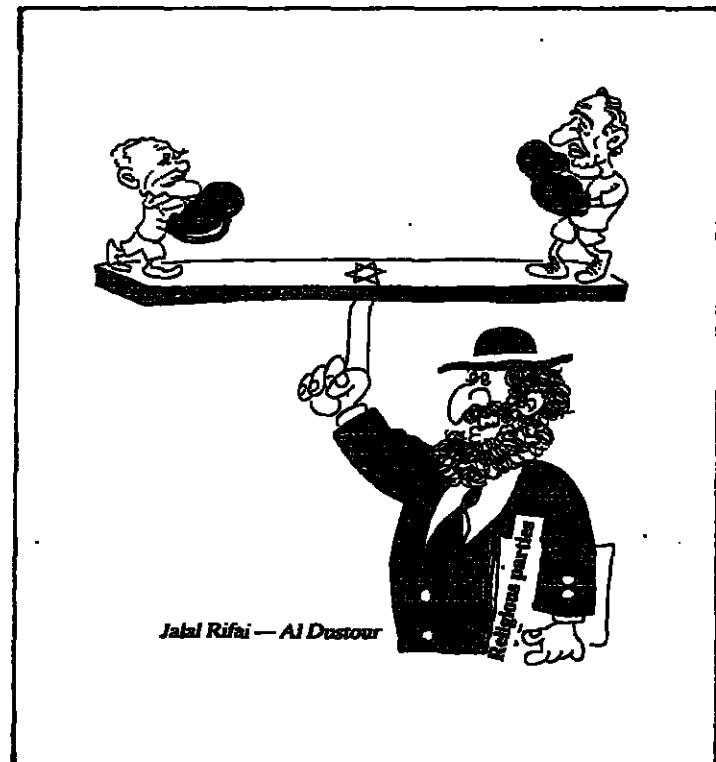
Born in Baghdad, he served as deputy chief rabbi of Egypt before moving to Israel. Here he was a religious court judge, author of Torah studies and founder in 1984 of the Shas party, an acronym for the Sephardic Torah guardians.

He created the party in reaction to discrimination against religious Sephardic Jews by the ultra-orthodox religious establishment, which was dominated by Ashkenazi, or European Jews.

Shas quickly gained support among secular Sephardis as well and today, at six seats, is the third largest party in the 120-seat Knesset. Three other religious parties control 12 seats.

Sephardic Jews, who comprise roughly 55 per cent of Israel's Jewish population, generally are poorer and more conservative than Ashkenazi Jews. Their massive support enabled the Likud to end 29 years of rule by the centre-left Labour party in 1977.

But since the 27-month-old Palestinian uprising, has made peace a more urgent concern, Yosef and some other Sephardic leaders have surprised their flock with moderate statements.



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts





Electorate sees House's vote on corruption cases as sign of a parliamentary process gaining momentum

## Giving credit when and where it is due

The decision of the Lower House of Parliament to forward nine cases of corruption for investigation and possible prosecution was not only the natural course of events but also served as an opportunity for the members of the House to vindicate themselves to an extent from harsh criticism for over their performance on the floor. **P.V. Vivekanand** reports:

AMMAN — In the wake of last week's decision by the Lower House of Parliament to refer nine cases of possible corruption to the judicial authorities and seek more details on dozens of others, some of the main questions that are raised among the voters are: Are the deputies finally doing the job expected of them? Was it the right way to approach the issue? How serious are the people's representatives in pursuing the issue of corruption and financial mismanagement? Is there a ceiling to what the deputies can achieve?

Having secured the mandate of the people in the Nov. 8 elections, the deputies have been finding themselves at the receiving end of harsh criticism from all corners for "not being able to achieve anything solid for the people," for "focusing attention on marginal issues" and for "overlooking the promises they made to their constituencies." Hard-hitting words have appeared in the press and also came in some Friday sermons at mosques as well as a few underground leaflets (mansourat). Against this background, many observers and voters see the House's move last week to expose possible cases of corruption in official circles and initiate the process of bringing the guilty to justice as a long-awaited attempt by the deputies to ex-

enorate themselves, particularly by bringing out an issue which is seen by many as a major contributor to the Kingdom's present economic ills.

"Everyone knows that someone, somewhere had always embezzled a lot of money in major projects this country has seen in the past two decades," commented Ali Mahmoud, a downtown grocer. "This was always assumed

"Many observers and voters see the House's move last week to expose possible cases of corruption in official circles and initiate the process of bringing the guilty to justice as a long-awaited attempt by the deputies to exonerate themselves, particularly by bringing out an issue which is seen by many as a major contributor to the Kingdom's present economic ills."

by the citizenry prior to the parliamentary elections and the democratisation that followed. An average man with a basic awareness could have guessed the culprit in most cases, but no-one could do anything about it except perhaps discuss it in private. "Now the situation has changed," he said. "Our deputies have seen to it that the door is open for prosecution of those responsible and we no longer have to look over our shoulders everytime we discuss

it." Abdullah Hussein, a service taxi driver, agrees with this line of thinking and believes the deputies deserve praise, but finds fault with the way the House handled the entire affair. "They should not have decided to discuss the issue in a closed session," he said. "Why did we vote them in? To have their own secrets and possible deals, and continue to keep us in the dark until such time they feel we are mature enough to understand?"

"I do not agree with it at all," he added. "I believe that I have a right to know who was responsible for forcing me to work 16 hours a day to make my ends meet. I used to work for 10 or 12 hours a day and take a decent income home,

and of course if, legal proceedings are launched to punish the guilty?"

"Goal is served"

Dr. Mahmoud Mazen believes that the House was right in opting for a closed session on corruption. "After all, what do we want? To ensure that the guilty are punished, isn't it? That ultimate goal is being served now, without the deputies having to go through the process of 'throwing mud' at some people who might be guilty only of being at the wrong place at the wrong time. Our country is small, and insinuations are more than enough to damage anyone."

"Let the authorities investigate," he said. "Let them come up with concrete proof against the people actually involved in corruption and financial mismanagement. We have waited for so long, and let us wait for sometime more before speculating and spreading rumours that a certain official took bribes for a certain project. For all we know, we might have the wrong people in mind and there will be no way for most people to disassociate them even if investigations point the finger at someone else."

"The deputies have done their job," he added. "They have started a process, and it is up to the judiciary and executive authorities to follow it up and ensure that justice is carried out."

"Democracy in full"

Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein from Zarqa insisted that all investigations and related sessions of Parliament should be



**CONSULTATIONS IN THE CORRIDORS...** Members of the Lower House of Parliament, despite their ideological and political differences, appear to be united in reasserting their clout and proving to their constituents that they are indeed the legislative

authority through bringing out the thorny but sensitive issue of corruption in public institutions and referring nine cases to the judiciary for investigation and possible prosecution (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

open to the public. "We are a democracy and democracy should be practised in full," he said. "Why the guess work, if the deputies will eventually speak and the information will be spread until it becomes rumour? Whom will it serve?"

Abu Hussein, an unsuccessful candidate in the Nov. 8 elections, however, expressed satisfaction over the work of the House's Financial Committee, whose report was the key document which was studied by the House in its secret session last week.

Youssef Masri, 26, an accountant, saw the outcome of the House session as positive, but said: "Since the information from the session was leaked — and it was clear that it was bound to — it would have been better if the debate was held in public."

A student of politics, who preferred anonymity, said the House committee had done a "good job, considering everything." But, he said, "the very fact that the vote in the House (in favour of referring nine cases to the judicial authorities) was 76 against four tells me something; that the government fully supports the House's move. It also means that the information on which the House committee based its report was made available to it by the government. That's a very healthy sign."

He reasoned that the government, through its various ministries and departments, "could have very well withheld vital information from the committee if it wanted to do so. Obviously, that was not the case. It is clear that the government is as keen as the House to clear things up and cooperate with the legislative authority in seeing it through."

But a former senior official at a government ministry who also insisted on anonymity, disagreed. "How do we know all related information was passed on to the House committee?" he asked. "The process could have very well been selective."

"I'd suggest that the House hold its next session in public and request members of the public who may have information to step forward and help the investigation," he said.

"For all we know, the testimony of a security guard at a certain project site can be the key to some mysteries related to that project, and help determine who was responsible for what," he added. However, he conceded that he was not underestimating the efficiency of the deputies to separate "the grain from the chaff."

Some people interviewed by the Jordan Times felt that corruption trials should be held in public.

An unemployed youth, who insisted be identified only as Omar, said he did not believe that the "entire truth will be brought into the open."

"There will always be some 'wasta' working behind the scenes," he said. However, he

"It is a difficult question," said Hassan Abu Suleiman, a schoolteacher. "It is true that some of the deputies appeared to be seeking the limelight on the floor rather than doing something creative. But with raising the issue of corruption and mismanagement and succeeding to come up with at least nine cases they seem to be on the path towards vindicating themselves. At least no-one can question their sincerity now."

"To be sure, one cannot distinguish between the work of the Financial Committee and the House in general simply because the man on the street doesn't care who did the actual job as long as the issues are brought up and handled in

immediate access to Parliament proceedings, secret or otherwise, even before the deputies leave the Parliament building."

But are the deputies doing their job in the right way? "Well, I guess so," answered Maha Zweidan, an office secretary. "The changing times in our society and life are in fact the mostly widely discussed subject among my group of friends. The obvious conclusion we come up with is that the deputies have limitations simply because they do not have the power to accelerate the executive bureaucracy. They can only make strong recommendations and suggestions, but they are helpless when faced with red tape. So, what they did, in terms of focusing on corruption and raising cases, is very commendable."

The course of events from this point is "no longer the responsibility of the House," argues Jamal Abu Jarrar, a leftist political activist. "What (the deputies) have done is to expose possible corruption and leave it to the judiciary to launch legal proceedings wherever needed. But if the judiciary fails them, they could not be blamed."

Leading columnist Tareq Masarweh appeared to echo the same sentiment. Writing in the Al Ra'i newspaper, the only Arabic-language daily to publish some details of what went behind the closed doors of the House Tuesday, Masarweh paid tribute to the deputies and the Financial Committee of the House for their "courageous attack on those who thrived on corruption."

The House's move to refer nine cases of corruption to the prosecutor general, he said, comes in line with the "effective participation of Parliament in maintaining an untarnished political life in the country."

"The corrupt should pay the price," he wrote. "We should introduce laws that deal with economic crimes. They should be tough against all elements who find their way into government through middlemen. Public servants who thrived on corruption in the absence of control should be questioned."



**A POINT OF ORDER...** Members of Parliament have been finding themselves the target of harsh criticism from the electorate for "focusing their attention on marginal issues" and "overlook-

ing their promises" to their voters. But last week's move by the House to expose corruption has helped them, to an extent, vindicate themselves (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

### Discord

(Continued from page 1)

On economic justifications for the government's position rejecting more tax exemptions, Jaradneh said that income tax in Jordan remained low compared to other countries in the region and low compared to income from custom duties.

He added that the Kingdom's budget deficit, which he said would be widened by the exemptions, "is the basis of economic imbalances and is linked to imbalances in the balance of payments."

The minister stressed that "ostracising this deficit has an extreme priority because it is the cornerstone for improving the basis of the Jordanian economy, creating a proper investment climate, boosting exports and returning capital into the country."

Jaradneh's report drew mixed reactions from deputies and a conclusive vote could not be taken on any of the proposed amendments.

The House then voted in favour of reducing tax exemptions for university students from JD 1,500 to JD 1,000 as a compromise between the government and the committee.

The eight-hour session came to an end after deputies discovered there was no quorum to keep the session in progress. The House decided to resume discussions of the income tax law Monday.

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# Brazil's emergency plan faces growing complaints

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Bankers and unionists, businessmen and politicians have complained bitterly in days since new President Fernando Collor de Mello decreed draconian measures designed to curtail record inflation.

But the 40-year-old conservative leader, inaugurated March 15, says his sweeping programme is "non-negotiable."

Since Thursday were deployed at thousands of banks nationwide to ensure clients were allowed to withdraw up to the equivalent of \$1,200 from savings and \$600 from short-term "overnight" accounts. The president decreed that all balances over the \$1,200 and \$600 limits are frozen in the central bank for 14 days.

High-society gossip columnist Ibrahim Sued wrote: "This was the greatest blow against Brazil's elite since the slaves were freed (in 1888), and the slaveowners weren't indemnified."

Representative Roberto Freire, the Brazilian Communist Party candidate in last year's presidential election, said, "if we had won and done this, the presidential palace would have been surrounded, and many people including me, would be headed for

exile."

Financial institutions have said they don't have money on hand to honour withdrawal requests from clients, who have formed huge lines in major cities all week. At least five bank managers have been arrested since Wednesday for setting withdrawal limits below the legal maximum, and charged with crimes punishable by two to six years in jail.

In Sao Paulo, several businessmen were also arrested for disobeying the plan's 30-day price freeze, established to halt inflation that reached 2,700 per cent the last 12 months.

The money crunch has caused a steep drop in business activity, with restaurants and stores in major cities nearly deserted and cash-strapped companies firing workers in droves — ignoring a warning from Collor de Mello that firms that did so would have their account books examined by federal tax investigators.

In the southern state of Parana, 19,000 construction workers were laid off this week. Scores of employees in the auto parts, banking and weapons industries have been fired or forced to take early holidays.

The emergency "shock" plan, decreed by Collor de Mello last Friday on his first full day in office, also included the introduction of a new currency, drastic spending cuts to eliminate a \$1 billion federal deficit and steep tax increases for businesses and the wealthy.

The measures dried up an estimated \$115 billion in cash from individuals and corporations.

Workers are to receive a 73 per cent raise — and prices and wages will be increased monthly by a government-set amount after the price freeze expires April 15.

But union leaders are worried by this week's layoffs and by Collor de Mello's promised privatisation of state-run firms. They also say workers' buying power will be slashed despite the price freeze, as the government ordered raise was far below March's expected inflation rate of 85 per cent.

Earlier last week, 1,000 unionists marched through downtown Rio demanding job protection and a bigger pay boost.

Meanwhile, congress has begun discussing the package. More than 1,000 amendments had been offered by Thursday.

Collor de Mello, politically right-of-centre, decreed the package with 26 "provisional measures" which take effect immediately but can be voted down or altered by congress within a period of 30 days.

Despite the hardships of being without money to spend, the Brazilian public overwhelmingly supports the measures, according to a poll released Sunday.

But while about half of all congressmen unofficially back Collor de Mello, the president's National Reconstruction Party has only 124 seats in the 570-member congress and will be forced to seek alliances.

Many congressmen aren't sure whether the plan will save the Brazilian economy or plunge it into a deep recession, and want to at least amend the plan to hedge their bets — especially with most members up for reelection this October.

"The poor are demanding I vote for the package but the middle class will kill me if I do," complained representative Luiz Henrique of the centrist Brazilian Democratic Movement Party, the largest party in congress with 189 of 570.

"We don't accept that the plan is unworkable. It should be preserved in general but congress has the competence and authority to make changes," said Robson Marinho of the centre-left Brazilian Social Democracy Party, congress' third-largest.

He said the Social Democracy Party would work to increase limits on withdrawals from bank accounts, support a further wage increase for workers and demand the government prevent wide-scale layoffs. Congressional leaders from most parties have said they will also back those plans.

Most analysts say the plan will be modified in congress but will pass largely intact.

"The plan will certainly be altered but with the president just having taken office its political impossibility to kill it," said leading political commentator Janio de Freitas of the prominent newspaper Folha De Sao Paulo.

## Peugeot-Fiat link up gets Paris backing

PARIS (R) — The French government has hinted strongly that private carmaker Peugeot should link up with Fiat of Italy to form a group big enough to withstand growing Japanese competition in Europe.

The suggestion from a highly placed French official was made days after Daimler-Benz A.G. of West Germany and Mitsubishi Corp of Japan announced a wide-ranging cooperation agreement involving cars and other industrial sectors.

The official said the government expected one or two of the six major European car manufacturers to disappear with the next 10 years and that it would be logical for Peugeot to form an alliance with Fiat if it wanted to be among the survivors.

Peugeot stock has been climbing ever since the state-owned French carmaker Renault formed an alliance with Volvo of Sweden mainly on speculation that Peugeot would also have to seek an outside partner.

# China to increase loans to foreign joint firms

BELING (AP) — The Bank of China will increase loans to cash-strapped joint ventures with foreign firms by nearly 30 per cent this year, an official daily said Friday.

The China Daily said the foreign exchange bank will increase outstanding working capital loans by 1.9 billion yuan (\$404 million) and \$200 to \$300 million in hard currency in 1990.

Last year the bank provided 8.8 billion yuan (\$1.87 billion) and \$650 million in hard currency to joint ventures.

The report said lending priority will be given to companies that produce import substitutes, introduce advanced technology or engage in infrastructure development.

The promise of increased credit is the latest measure taken by the

government to shore up foreign investors' waning confidence in China.

Foreign businessmen have been dismayed by the political turmoil surrounding the crack-down on last spring's pro-democracy movement, a revival of Marxist ideology in the workplace, and economic austerity measures that have dried up credit and brought economic growth to a halt.

The government, which badly needs foreign money and technology for China's modernisation, has stressed that foreign investors will continue to receive special treatment.

Last November, the Bank of China extended 400 million yuan (\$85 million) in medium and long-term loans for joint ventures. The daily said these loans

will continue in 1990.

The government also bailed out foreign automakers with factories in China, which had been left with large unsold inventories because of the economic slow-down.

The National People's Congress China's parliament, is to approve at its annual session now taking place an amendment to a joint venture law guaranteeing that foreign-funded enterprises will not be nationalised.

More than 20,000 foreign companies have invested some \$15 billion in joint ventures and other enterprises in China since the nation initiated its open-door policy more than a decade ago.

The Bank of China provides loans to more than 4,000 foreign-invested firms, the daily said.

# Czechs abandon Comecon's system of exchange rates

PRAGUE (AP) — Finance Minister Václav Klaus announced Thursday that Czechoslovakia will withdraw from the Comecon's system of fixed exchange rates.

Czechoslovakia was the first Comecon country to make such a move, although there has been much talk about a monetary union between the two German states preceding German reunification.

In a televised statement, Klaus said, "the government decided today to send a letter to Comecon headquarters informing (it) about the decision to abandon the agreement on rates of exchange."

Under the system of fixed rates of exchange, changes in the relation between currencies of member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the Soviet Bloc trading alliance, can only be made by mutual agreement.

The Czechoslovak government, after the revolutionary changes in the country, has been sharply critical of the workings of Comecon, saying the eastern trading bloc is antiquated and needs drastic streamlining. At one point, officials even indicated Czechoslovakia might quit Comecon altogether.

In addition, the Czechoslovaks have complained about some un-

realistic exchange rates, favouring, for example, the forint — the Hungarian currency.

Klaus said, "after three months, the validity of the current system will expire, and we can change the (exchange) rates unilaterally." He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher said Thursday, that recent democratic changes in Eastern Europe should lead to the elimination of many restrictions Western countries are still placing on trade with those nations.

"Changes in Eastern Europe require us to remove export controls on many items," Mosbacher said.

But Mosbacher said his government would not allow a wholesale relaxation of the so-called Cocom rules that would allow the Soviet military access to strategically important technology.

Cocom is the acronym for the 17-nation Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls that restricts Western high-technology exports to East Bloc countries.

The United States will not give the Soviet military the "opportunity to catch up" with advanced Western military technology, he said.

"You don't have to take (the

technological rejuvenation of Eastern Europe) up to the state of the art that would have a dual use" in peaceful and military applications, Mosbacher said.

Mosbacher made his remarks at a forum on cooperation between the U.S. and Europe in the 1990s. The meeting took place at the Cebit International Computer and Telecommunications Technology Fair in Hannover.

Also at the forum, West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann repeated his government's calls for a far-reaching overhaul of Cocom restrictions.

He said this was needed to integrate Eastern Europe completely into the "family" of Western nations, especially East Germany.

Anticipating unification of the two German states, West Germany is seeking to bring the East German economic infrastructure and manufacturing sophistication up to Western technological standards.

That would require sweeping away of a wide section of Cocom controls for industrial, computer and telecommunications technology.

Haussmann called for an elimination of all Cocom embargoes except for a hard core of sophisticated products for military use.

# India rejects Coke's application for plant

NEW DELHI (AP) — Cola wars in India have fizzled with an announcement that the government has rejected Coca-Cola Co.'s bid to sell the popular soft drink coke in India.

Some, including a spokesman for Coke's top competitor Pepsi-Cola, criticised the move as a return to economic nationalism by India which in recent years encouraged foreign investment.

Commerce Secretary S.P. Shukla said Coke's application to build a \$3 million plant in an export zone had been rejected.

"The reasons for our move will be explained in a letter to the applicant," he said, without elaborating.

A spokeswoman for the ministry of commerce said "protection of India's domestic market played a major factor in the decision." A similar request by PepsiCo, Inc. also will probably be rejected, she added, speaking to reporters.

Coke applied two years ago to manufacture its syrup in an export processing zone. Under the agreement, only 25 per cent of its output would have been sold in India to local bottlers. As an added incentive, Coke modified its bid by offering to invest in a joint venture in southern India to export tea concentrate to Japan.

Coke's goal was to break into India's \$350 million soft drink market which is now controlled by three

domestic soda companies. Industry analysts say there is room for growth in that market. Indians consume an average of only three bottles of soft drinks a year, compared to 13 in neighbouring Pakistan, 39 in Thailand and 550 in the United States.

Murad Baig, a spokesman for Coca-Cola, accused the government of giving in to domestic soda barons and of trying to protect "a lazy industry."

"It is backward-looking and doesn't help India," he said. "We just sacrificed hundreds and hundreds of jobs."

Coke's revised proposal mirrored a successful bid by PepsiCo Inc. which in 1988 won the right to sell Pepsi in India in exchange for investing in \$15 million agricultural joint venture in Punjab state.

Pepsi will begin selling its drink, called Pepsi Era, this summer and has already begun marketing potato chips under the Hostess brand name and its cheese-flavoured Cheetos snacks.

Pepsi's plan was approved under the administration of then-Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who opened India to foreign investment. But India's new government, led by Prime Minister V.P. Singh, will "most probably" reject Pepsi's second proposal to set up shop in an export zone, the ministry of commerce spokeswoman said.

# Volvo posts weak figures

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's A.B. Volvo has reported a 15 per cent drop in its 1989 group results and a halving of the profits of its car division.

But analysts said the company's figures were dragged down by a write-off and accounting changes.

"Whichever way you look at it, it was a fairly poor fourth quarter, but the figures aren't quite as bad as they first seem," said Nick Ireland, analyst at Robert Fleming Securities.

Volvo's 1989 pre-tax profits fell to 7.011 billion crowns (\$1.15 billion).

Volvo said its car division, struggling with higher costs but

unable to charge more for its cars in a competitive market, had to bear a large part of the profit fall.

Operating profit for the car division in 1989 fell by 46 per cent. But lower profit margins also hit the company's truck division, the major force behind Volvo's strong profit rise in past years.

Volvo's truck operations saw profits fall 14 per cent while bus profits were down 18 per cent.

"Despite a weaker market, I was still hoping for a profit rise in both the truck and bus division in 1989," said analyst Suzanne Oliver at Hoare Govett, who said the results were at the lower end of market expectations.

# Employment costs in U.S. rise by 5%

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employment costs rose five per cent last year, largely because of rising health insurance costs, while wage and salary gains lagged behind inflation, the government has reported.

The Labour Department said its employment cost index, considered one of the best gauges of inflationary wage pressures, showed an increase equal to the five per cent rise in 1988 in wages, salaries and benefits paid to American workers.

Before 1988, benefit costs had grown steadily for the past three years at about 3.5 per cent.

Benefit costs jumped 6.1 per cent in 1989, compared to a 6.8 per cent gain in 1988. But the 1988 increase was attributed in part to a five per cent increase in the employer's social security tax rate — a rate that stayed steady in 1989.

Escalating health insurance costs last year kept the cost of benefits high even without a change in the social security tax, the Labour Department said.

Although overall employment costs rose, the rate of wage and salary increases lagged behind inflation for the third straight year. Wage and salary gains rose 4.2 per cent in 1989, under the year's 4.6 per cent inflation rate. In 1988, those gains were 4.1 per cent while inflation was 4.4 per cent.

According to the Labour Department, employment costs for state and local government workers rose 6.2 per cent, up from 5.6 per cent in 1988.

Cost private industry employers 4.6 per cent more last year to pay wages, salaries and benefits than it did in 1988, the department said, composed with a 4.9 per cent gain in 1988 over 1987. Federal government costs are not included in the report.

Workers in the rapidly expanding service sector of the economy, where the tight labour market is felt, experienced a 4.5 per cent wage gain, while those working in goods-producing industries saw their pay increase on average by 3.9 per cent.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MARCH 24, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Influential persons, who have broad scope to their thinking will be willing to give you excellent ideas and suggestions for gaining your most cherished and spectacular desires.

cial point to express it to all with whom you come in contact, gain greater popularity.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) This is the day to let your loved one and only know how devoted you are and to be very romantic in binding yourselves to another family.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Friends, friends, friends should be the media by which you and your hopes and wishes are most easily a part of your everyday orbit.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) A day to let whatever persons of prominence or influence with whom you have association know of your admiration for them in their speciality.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You like to make changes and to be part of the new and the artistic or beautiful and now is the time when this is attained with ease.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Put into motion early whatever you have agreed to do for your mate and then you would be wise to be exact in handling any and all obligations.

**Today's child:** If your child were born today he or she is certainly apt to be very busy and particular wanting to keep their toys and apparel in meticulous shape and condition and wanting others to keep hands off of any of their personal possessions. Ethical, moral and spiritual training will keep blind spots from developing in these areas.

## THE Daily Crossword

by Don Johnson

ACROSS

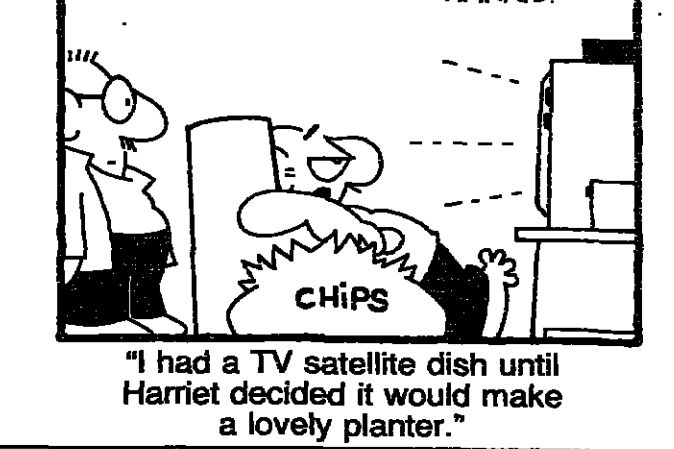
- 1 Presidential
- 2 name
- 3 Chicken
- 4 Scuffle
- 5 Android
- 6 Western
- 7 Set
- 8 Elated
- 9 Tavern drink
- 10 Goliath and Goliath
- 11 Chatter
- 12 "To — in solemn silence..." (G.S.)
- 13 Weedy plant
- 14 Beards
- 15 International
- 16 Shaw
- 17 Celestial sphere
- 18 Washer and —
- 19 Relieves
- 20 Woodwind
- 21 Expensive
- 22 Mo
- 23 Swan and
- 24 Lab pet
- 25 Once called
- 26 Leading
- 27 Interacts well
- 28 Soda
- 29 Conveyance
- 30 Worshipers
- 31 Endure longer
- 32 Washer
- 33 Pasture
- 34 Promise of
- 35 Prosperity
- 36 Pitcher handle
- 37 Skirt
- 38 Penetrate
- 39 Cease
- 40 Fix the roof
- 41 Eng. author

DOWN

- 1 "rule them with — of iron"
- 2 Finished
- 3 Basics
- 4 Bother
- 5 Celebrated in history
- 6 Delites
- 7 Operated
- 8 Stained
- 9 Council
- 10 High bishop
- 11 Provisional
- 12 Give the eye
- 13 Go-getter
- 14 Says
- 15 Locations
- 16 Property
- 17 Heavenly path
- 18 Honest
- 19 Indian lute
- 20 Black
- 21 Wigwag
- 22 — Park, CO
- 23 Fisherman of a kind
- 24 Like some food
- 25 Unexpected hit
- 26 Spread thickly
- 27 Show up
- 28 Francis or Dahl
- 29 Sheltered
- 30 Singer Martin
- 31 Chair
- 32 Ms Lupino
- 33 Humdinger
- 34 Nora's pet
- 35 Timetable for short
- 36 Phenocian city
- 37 Ms Lupino

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



## JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BOAVE

MEFAL

LOCCIA

MEENZY

WHAT THE BIG DAIRY FARMER HAD LOTS OF.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "OOC-OO"

(Answer tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: DECAY QUEEN FLOID ELKIP

Answer: What the stag did when the hunters arrived — RAN FOR "DEER" LIFE

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

**SYDNEY** — Australia's sharemarket had a lacklustre day in the lead-up to the federal election. The All Ordinaries index edged up 0.6 to 1,567.3.

**TOKYO** — Share prices fought off the influence of the weak yen and a late afternoon burst of buying sent the Nikkei index up 528.82 to 30,372.16.

**HONG KONG** — Bullish sentiment flowed from good corporate results and Hong Kong's resilience to volatility in Tokyo stocks. The Hang Seng gained 25.49 to close at 2,974.16.

**SINGAPORE** — Prices firmed on institutional buying and bargain hunting. The Straits Times index closed up 15.51 at 1,585.42.

**BOMBAY** — Share prices soared for the second day. The stock exchange index shot up 18.54 points to 757.76.

**FRANKFURT** — German shares closed firmer in low volume trade, almost reversing the one per cent loss in Thursday's trading session. The DAX index was up 13.14 points at 1,932.12.

**ZURICH** — Wall Street's Thursday fall and uncertainties about Swiss interest rates depressed shares in slow trade. Buyers emerged at lower levels and the SPI index closed 6.1 points lower at 1,078.4.

**PARIS** — Interest rate worries kept volume low but prices were broadly higher.

**LONDON** — Shares turned up on relief that a week of pitfalls had passed with relatively little damage. The FTSE index gained 25 points to 2,283.9.

**NEW YORK** — Tokyo's recovery helped U.S. shares rebound from Thursday losses. At 1706 GMT the Dow Jones industrial was 11.16 higher at 2,707.88.



## Women's Sports Club holds annual race

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Friday attended the third annual Women's Sports Club district race, which was held on the occasion of the International Women's Day under the slogan "Sports for All."

The approximately 1,000 participants were divided into three groups — group one, for participants under 15 years; group two, for participants aged 15 to 20 years and group three, for partici-

pants who are over 20 years. The distance for group one was three kilometres and for group two and three for four kilometres.

The first group winner was Lana Al Turk, while Hafsa Fares won in the second group and Khitam Al Qaddumi secured the honours in the third group.

At the end of the race, Queen Noor presented medals and

trophy to the first place winners in each group and presented medals to the oldest and youngest participants in the race.

The race started at the Jerusalem Hotel and ended at Al Hussein Sports City. On the occasion, a festival was held at Al Hussein Youth City which included performances by the Jordanian Armed Forces Band and students from Al Ma'arif International School as well as

the Arab Model School.

Attending the festival were Her Royal Highness Princess Aisha Bint Al Hussein, Minister of Culture and Acting Minister of Youth Khaled Al Karaki, Secretary General of the Ministry of Youth Asim Ghosheh, president of the Women's Sports Club Da'ad Ma'ath and members of the club's administrative committee.

## 'Arabians at home'

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Thursday attended the Arabian horse festival held at the Royal Stables.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Princess Alia said that this is the first time "the Arabian horse is shown in its home" in a beauty contest for the year 1990.

Princess Alia said that this show was organised in coordination with the European Committee for the Society of the Arabian Horse, which means that the winning horses of each class will qualify to participate in the main international shows held in Europe and the Arab World.

Her Highness praised the high level of the show and called for holding several other similar shows in Jordan to highlight the beauty of the Arabian horse and the aspects that distinguish it

from other kinds of horses.

The winning horses were as follows:

- 1) Males (general)
  - a) Vin Hazor — UAE
  - b) Vernage — Jordan
- II) Under four years' old
  - a) Hilal Al Eid — Royal Stables
  - b) Omran — Jordan
- II) Over four years' old
  - a) Hamdan — Royal Stables
  - b) Petra — Royal Stables
- 2) Females
  - a) Under four years' old
  - b) Nijma — Jordan
  - c) Petra — Royal Stables
- II) Over four years' old
  - a) Alia — Royal Stables
  - b) Sara — Royal Stables



Horsemen line up horses in preparation for the show (Petra photo)

- 3) Males born in 1989
  - a) Lemee — Royal Stables
  - b) Ashraf — Royal Stables
- 4) Females born in 1989
  - a) Safa — Royal Stables
  - b) Ribab — Royal Stables

At the end of the race trophies and awards were presented to the winners. The festival was organised by Hotel Jordan International in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian (RJ) and Dunhill Company.

## British bidder counts on highways, history to win Olympic bid

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — In the city where Mr. Rolls met Mr. Royce, they are trying to put wheels on an Olympic bid.

"Driving the dream" is the slogan of Manchester's effort to host the 1996 games and provide new stadiums, arenas — and a much-needed economic boost — to the north of England.

Local business, government and even the police force appear to be solidly behind the bid. But before it can stage the 100th Birthday of the modern Olympics, this old mill town must overcome obstacles such as rich rivals, national government policies and a smoggy image.

It's counting on history and highways to help, while acknowledging that there is ground to be made up.

"We feel positive at the moment" said Rick Parry, director

of the Manchester Olympic bid. "There is a very positive mood in the city, a mood of commitment."

Big money is being committed to support the bid, one of six from around the world that the International Olympic Committee will review and vote upon in September as the site for the '96 games.

The British government has pledged \$2.4 million to improve the area's infrastructure. British Telecom has promised to spend the same amount on telecommunications networks.

The bid itself contains a budget of \$300 million for stadiums, arenas and housing for athletes, officials and the news media. That money will come from the private sector and the facilities will be turned into national and regional training and competition sites

once the Olympics are over.

Independent surveys estimate that the Olympics would pump more than \$4 billion into the national economy and create 50,000 jobs in Greater Manchester, where unemployment is at 3 per cent.

Venues would be spread among 25 regional venues, from the center of the city to the Welsh coast a 2-hour drive to the west. But the plans focus on 1,000 acres of wasteland on the Manchester ship canal.

There, an 80,000-seat stadium, a 20,000-seat gymnastics arena, swimming and diving pools and Olympic village are envisioned.

Parry and Bob Scott, the bid's president, said the project would be an extension of redevelopment that has already taken place on canal lands closer to the city center.

Expensive townhouses have been built where derelict wharfs once stood. Yachts anchor where garbage scows once did.

All of the other bids — Atlanta, Athens, Belgrade, Melbourne and Toronto — have plans for new stadiums and highways, too. But Manchester argues that it has an edge with that is already in place.

The city's airport is touted as first rate and getting better, with plans for a third terminal that would handle only Olympic traffic.

Railroads link Manchester with its own suburbs and every other major city in Britain. There will be a direct link to continental Europe once the channel tunnel is completed.

Expressways surround the city, with "m-routes" — the British equivalent of an interstate — spinning off in all directions.

"We are very conscious of the facilities we have," Parry said. "To build an arena takes two years. To build a motorway takes 12 years."

With highway and housing problems popping up in the 1992 summer games' city of Barcelona, Parry said, the IOC voters could pay more attention to the solid infrastructure already here.

"It is important to realise the environment in which the IOC is operating," he said.

History also is on Manchester's side, the planners argue.

The Romans founded the city 2,000 years ago. The electromagnetic and the passenger train came from here, and in 1905 Charles Rolls and Henry Royce shook hands at the Midland hotel and agreed to make the automobile that has become the motorised status symbol of Moguls and movie stars.

That hotel would be the IOC headquarters during the games.

The organisers propose that the preceding IOC session — and the 100th birthday party that would accompany it — be held in London, a 45-minute plane ride away.

The bid emphasises Britain's sports heritage to the fullest. It notes that the IOC charter, the bylaws of the games, were based on the constitution of the Henley Regatta.

Tennis at Wimbledon, golf at St. Andrews, racing at Aintree and soccer at some of the world's most famous stadiums are tossed out as lures. The bid even mentions that baseball was played at the old Trafford cricket ground 100 years ago, and would return to an Olympic diamond there in '96.

Nonetheless, the city still has an image problem.

Even though computers, insurance and the like are replacing heavy industry here, people hear "Manchester" and picture smokestacks and cotton mills, the director said.

"Our image is a weakness," he said. "Some people think that we are still in the midst of the industrial revolution. They ask me, 'how is your smog problem,' when actually we have very little."

Another trouble spot is apartheid. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has been criticised by black African and other third world nations for her relatively lenient views regarding economic and political sanctions against South Africa.

Parry said the apartheid issue might be a factor in whether Thatcher addresses the IOC during Manchester's presentation in Tokyo. But he said he did not know whether her presence would cost the city any votes.

"Who knows? You have 92 strong individuals on the IOC — how do you appeal to them all?" he said. "Some like her, some don't like her. But I think all respect her."

Parry said the bid was trying to counter national government policy toward South Africa by stressing the strong anti-apartheid stance of local government. It got a boost last week when Nelson Mandela, the freed African National Congress leader, thanked Manchester citizens for their support during his 27 years in jail.

Manchester has hosted 15 IOC members and plans to show another 50 around town by the time the vote is taken. The city remains a darkhorse in the race, but Parry said he liked its position for the stretch run.

## Edberg edges Hlasek in tennis quarterfinals



Stefan Edberg

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — The sets were close. The tiebreakers were close. Even the calls were close as Stefan Edberg edged Jakob Hlasek in the quarterfinals of the international players championships.

A disputed linesman's ruling at match point in the third-set tiebreaker kept Edberg alive, and he went on Thursday to win 6-7, (7-9), 7-6, (7-5), 7-6, (8-6).

Edberg, at no. 3 the highest-seeded player remaining in the

men's draw, advanced to a semi-finals match Friday against no. 15 Emilio Sanchez. The Spaniard, who upset top-ranked Ivan Lendl Wednesday, swept no. 10 Martin Jaito Thursday, 6-3, 6-3.

No. 5 Andre Agassi will meet no. 7 Jay Berger in the other semi-finals match. Agassi rallied Thursday to beat no. 14 Jim Courier 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Berger advanced by default when no. 16 Pete Sampras withdrew because of muscle injuries in his left hip and thigh. Sampras, hurt during the second set of his three-set victory Wednesday night over Jean Fluridan, expects to be sidelined two to three weeks.

In the women's semifinals, no. 3 seed Monica Seles beat no. 9 Nathalie Tauziat 6-3, 6-1. Seles will play in Saturday's finals against the winner of Thursday night's match between no. 5 Conchita Martinez and no. 15 Judith Wiesner.

Edberg, seeking his second tournament title this month, advanced by the narrowest of margins.

The Swede trailed 5-6 in his third-set tiebreaker when Hlasek punched a forehand volley down the line and out of Edberg's reach. The unseeded Hlasek, thinking his shot was good, threw his hands up in glee, thinking he had won, when linesman Pete Conklin called the ball out.

After arguing briefly with chair umpire Gerry Armstrong, Hlasek double-faulted, then hit a backhand wide and the match was over. Hlasek walked over to Conklin and mockingly shook his hand, and the crowd booed the linesman.

"I shouldn't have done that," Hlasek said later, his anger subsided. "It was just frustrated."

Hlasek said he thought the disputed call was wrong, but attributed his loss to "bad luck." Edberg said the ruling easily could have gone Hlasek's way.

"I sort of feel sad for him," Edberg said. "I both played some really good tennis in the last set. ... what happened on the match point... sort of took the edge out of the match."

Another close call went against

Hlasek in the second-set tiebreaker. He argued when one of his serves was ruled out, then double-faulted for the second time in the tiebreaker to give Edberg a 6-5 lead. The Swede clinched the set on the next point.

"When you hit so close to the line like both of us were doing, there are going to be a few bad calls," Edberg said.

Agassi fell behind 4-1 in the first set, then pulled his game together to beat fellow teen-ager Courier in a battle from the baseline.

On the women's side, Seles belted 27 winners against Tauziat and has yet to lose a set in five tournament matches. The 16-year-old Seles, seeking her second career tournament title, could benefit from earlier upsets that knocked out no. 1 seed Gabriela Sabatini and no. 2 Zina Garrison.

"Sometimes you have the luck and sometimes it all turns against you," Seles said. "It would be good to win because this tournament ranks right behind the Grand Slam tournaments."

## Abdul-Jabbar says he doesn't miss basketball

INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA (AP) — After some 30 years of playing basketball, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar doesn't miss the grind.

Unlike some athletes who have difficulty leaving their playing days behind, the 42-year-old former Lakers center feels perfectly content as a civilian.

About the only basketball he's been near since retiring after last season, Abdul-Jabbar said, is youth recreational games near his home in Hawaii.

"I can live a much more normal life now, I miss my friends in basketball, but not the travel and all the other things," he said Tuesday afternoon at a news conference. He made the comments several hours before the Lakers' retired his no. 33 jersey in a halftime ceremony.

"One adjustment has been how to use my time. I have so much of it now that I don't have to give time to preparation for basketball. I've enjoyed finally having time for my children."

Asked if he had been at any Lakers games this season, Abdul-Jabbar said, "the only games I've attended are those of my son, Kareem, who's playing in one of the city recreational leagues."

Unlike his father, who grew to be 7-foot-2 and was a sensation at center as early as junior high school, the younger Kareem, 13, is a guard.

"I've been working with little Kareem, showing him how to shoot with his left hand," Abdul-Jabbar said. "He's a guard, out there where, if you turn the ball over, everybody can see it."

Since his final game for the Lakers, Abdul-Jabbar has

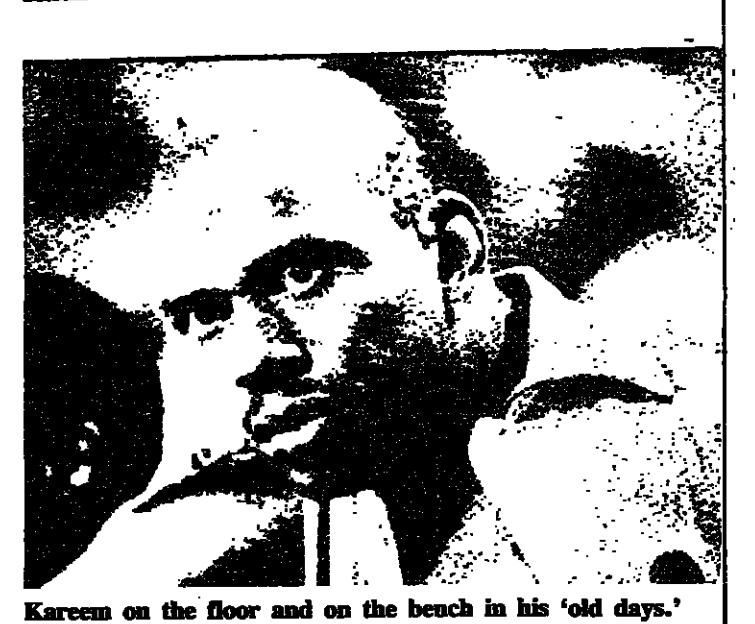
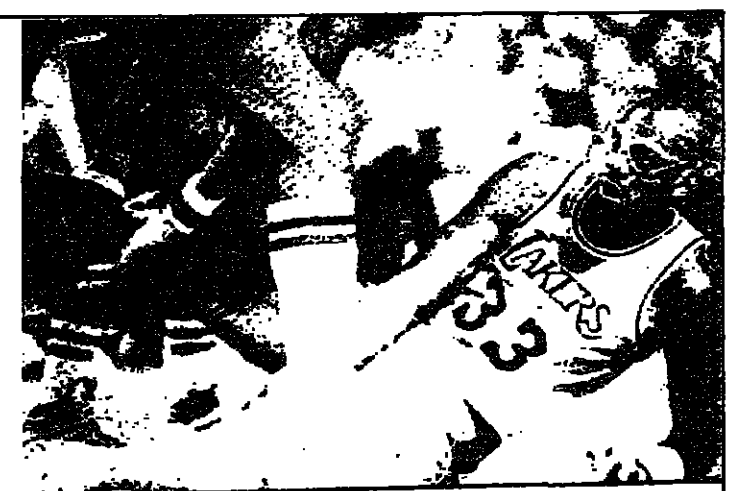
done some acting, continued his advertising and promotional ties with a shoe company, and worked on a book on his last season, "Kareem," that has just come out.

He also headlined a team that played exhibition games in Australia and Taiwan last summer.

"One of the greatest things to see... is how basketball has been accepted here and around the world," he said. "When we went to Australia and Taiwan, they knew all about the Lakers, they were asking questions. They had been watching on television."

In his book, Abdul-Jabbar addresses one of his chief critics during his playing career, Wilt Chamberlain. "Abdul-Jabbar refers to Chamberlain's 'belittling my abilities and my longevity' and accuses him of being jealous and envious."

Abdul-Jabbar also wrote that Chamberlain, who holds the national Basketball Association record of 100 points in a game, will be remembered as a "whining crybaby and quitter, stats and all."



Kareem on the floor and on the bench in his 'old days.'

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**NORTH**  
 ♠ Q J  
 ♥ 7 6 2  
 ♦ A J 8 5 3 2  
 ♣ 10 5

**EAST**  
 ♠ 9 7 5 3  
 ♥ K 4  
 ♦ Q 10 7 4  
 ♣ K 9

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A K 10  
 ♥ A 10 8 3  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ A K Q 9 7

The bidding:  
 South West North East  
 1♠ Pass 10 Pass  
 2♥ Pass 3♦ Pass  
 3NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠

As youngsters, we were taught to "take care of the pennies and the dollars will take care of themselves." That has stood us in good stead at the bridge table, where husbanding small assets can reap rich rewards.

On this hand from a team match,

both teams sailed into three no trump on similar auctions. At both tables West led the six of spades — second best — to show no particular interest in the suit.

At one table, declarer took the spade and immediately went after clubs, playing the suit from the top. When West showed out on the second round of the suit, declarer had only eight fast winners, and there the total remained when the defenders refused to make any major error. Down one.

At the other table, declarer realized four club tricks would be enough to lead the contract. Since the combined 10 9 in dummy and the closed hand were equal with the jack, declarer won the opening lead on the table and led the ten of clubs.

Had East covered, declarer would have four club tricks and his contract. East desperately followed low in the hope declarer would err, but South ran the ten and, when that won, hesitated the nine of clubs as well. As a result, declarer made an overrival in a contract where the opposing South failed by a trick.

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# Lithuania pleads for support; says Kremlin planning to use force

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Lithuania's new pro-independence parliament appealed for world support Friday and accused the Kremlin of planning force against its drive to secede from the Soviet Union.

An official statement, heightening a war of words between Moscow and Vilnius, expressed fears that Soviet leaders were "preparing to use force against the Lithuanian Republic and its citizens."

At the same time in Washington, the U.S. Senate unanimously backed Lithuanian independence and democracy — a day after rejecting a stronger message of support at the urging of President George Bush's advisers.

In Tokyo, the head of the official Soviet News Agency (TASS) said the loss of Lithuania would be a blow to the Soviet Union as the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, but pledged that Moscow would not use arms to resolve the crisis.

The Baltic republic urged other countries to lodge protests to prevent the "possible use of any form of coercion and violence against a peaceful member state of the world community, Lithuania, and its citizens."

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has ordered Lithuanians to surrender their weapons and imposed other restrictions on the Baltic republic, which declared its independence on March 11.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis has dismissed Gor-

bachev's emergency decrees as "deplorable" and warned they could be "implemented only by brutal armed force."

The plea for international support was made by Landsbergis at the end of a parliamentary session and renewed in a statement released Friday by the republic's information office.

It followed Gorbachev's demand that the Lithuanians halt the formation of volunteer units to defend the republic.

In a further move, TASS reported that KGB security troops had reinforced border troops Thursday on Lithuania's international frontier.

Gorbachev, in his first substantial use of new powers as executive president granted him this month, called on Lithuanians to surrender firearms and imposed tougher visa restrictions and border controls.

Members of Lithuania's new pro-independence leadership rejected Gorbachev's decree as the latest stage in a Kremlin campaign aimed at forcing them back into the Soviet fold.

Gorbachev has pressed Lithuania to rescind a declaration by the newly-elected parliament of a return to its pre-war independence, ended after the Red Army's arrival in 1940.

There was little sign of reconciliation between the two sides Friday as the Lithuanian parliament prepared to elect a new government certain to press on with breakaway moves.

Radical economist Kazimiera Prunskiene has already been appointed prime minister and Algirdas Brazauskas, leader of the republic's Communist Party and a former president, one of her deputies.

In a further sign of Lithuanian defiance, Jonas Vyshniauskas, head of a hunting and fishing federation, said on television that his 10,000 members would not comply with a Gorbachev decree to turn in weapons.

U.S. Senate backs Lithuania

Meanwhile, Bush is steering away from strong statements on the volatile situation in Lithuania, but the Senate has warned Moscow that using military force in the breakaway republic would harm U.S.-Soviet relations.

On a 93-0 vote late Thursday night, the Senate approved a resolution calling on the Soviet Union to halt its intimidation of Lithuania and urging Bush to consider the republic's request for diplomatic relations.

"The Soviet Union has no right to use force against Lithuanians peacefully exercising their democratic rights," declared the resolution, which is not binding but indicates "a sense of Congress."

Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders "should clearly understand that the use of force against the Lithuanian people would have severe repercussions for U.S.-Soviet relations," it said.

The Bush administration has expressed concern about Soviet moves in Lithuania, which declared independence from Moscow on March 11 after voting the ruling Communists out of power.

But the United States has not extended formal diplomatic recognition, saying Lithuania does not control its territory.

Earlier Thursday, Bush declined to criticize Gorbachev's order for Lithuanian secessionists to surrender their weapons.

"What possible good would come from the president of the United States, standing halfway around the world, speculating on something that he doesn't want to see happen," Bush said.

He spoke as Soviet armoured personnel carriers moved through the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius in a show of force Thursday and leaders of the rebellious Baltic republic appealed for world support.

Sweden on alert

In a separate development, Sweden has put its military on a higher alert after reports of Soviet troop movements in Lithuania, defence officials said Thursday.

"There have been changes in the frame of our basic alert," which marginally increase the state of preparedness, said defence spokeswoman Kari Hansson.

Among other measures, she said more pilots than usual were on call.

## Baker tours Soweto

SOWETO, South Africa (R) — Four days after arriving in Africa, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker finally caught a glimpse Friday of the continent's harsh realities in a brief tour of a squalid squatter settlement.

Baker saw the open sewers, the corrugated iron shacks and rusty outdoor latrines in the shanty town of Mshengville from the window of his limousine as his motorcade sped through the massive black township of Soweto near Johannesburg.

The secretary of state had come to South Africa intent on encouraging the white government to move faster to dismantle the apartheid system.

After meeting President F.W. de Klerk in Cape Town Thursday, Baker said he was convinced the government was committed to abolishing apartheid, under which the black majority of South Africa has been deprived of civil and political rights for decades.

U.S. officials said Washington no longer believed Pretoria should be diplomatically isolated and would engage its leaders at the highest level.

In Soweto, Baker met Walter Sisulu, a close confidant of black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

Baker said after the meeting he was more than ever convinced apartheid had to go.

Asked how he had reacted to the poverty in Soweto, Baker said: "I think it's quite distressing. I think it's important that the system be abolished as quickly as possible."

The 78-year-old Sisulu, who spent 25 years in jail until his release last year, is now in charge of organising the African National Congress (ANC) in South Africa.

"We have particularly mentioned to the secretary... lack of facilities for proper education, which we consider can be very harmful," he said.

"We have also mentioned... the lack of accommodation which is also dynamic for violence," Sisulu added.

Over two million people live in Soweto but by far the worst conditions are in its sprawling squatter camps like Mshengville which have virtually no utilities or drainage. Rows of mobile toilets inscribed "easy loo toilet here" line the garbage-strewn dust tracks between shack dwellings.

Sisulu said de Klerk was edging in the right direction but should move faster to destroy apartheid.

Opposite the Sisulu home where the meeting took place, three and four-year-old children in a pre-school centre shook clenched fists in the air and shouted "power, power" and "ANC, ANC."

## Thatcher party suffers crushing by-election defeat

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservatives suffered a crushing defeat Friday in a key parliamentary by-election and the victory of opposition Labour Party predicted it would go on to win the next general election.

Triumphant Labour candidate Sylvia Heal said: "The historic message that will go from this by-election across the Western World will be that the dark age of Thatcherism is drawing to a close."

She told a crowd chanting "Maggie, out" that a 21 per cent swing from Conservative to Labour in the central England seat of Mid-Staffordshire meant people were turning to a reborn Labour Party.

Conservative spokesmen dismissed Labour's victory, its best at a by-election in more than half a century, as a protest.

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## Mugabe: Reforms in East are not victory for West

KADOMA, Zimbabwe (R) — Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe has told Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze that reforms ending old-style Communist rule in Eastern Europe did not mean the West had defeated the East.

Mugabe was in the town campaigning for next week's presidential and parliamentary elections in which his own position is being challenged by opposition leader Edgar Tekere.

Shevardnadze, on a 10-day southern African tour, arrived in Zimbabwe, his fourth stop, Thursday from neighbouring Mozambique.

He has also visited Angola, Zambia and Namibia, where he attended that country's independence celebrations.

The Soviet foreign minister, on arrival in Harare, told a news conference that Namibia's independence raised prospects of peace in Angola and Mozambique, torn by civil war.

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## Nunn sees major gap in \$307b defence budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush's \$307-billion Defence budget contains several major gaps in assessing the overall threat to the West and shaping military strategy, says the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

But Defence Secretary Dick Cheney urged critics Thursday to examine what the Defence Department is doing to restructure U.S. forces, contending that his agency had done a "complete rethinking of missions and strategy."

In a rhetorical skirmish between two of the leading players in the battle over the defence budget, Armed Services Committee Chairman Sen. Sam Nunn said Thursday that if the Defence Department wants to stay credible, it must fill the large holes in the spending blueprint.

Nunn cited at least five "big blanks" in Bush's budget: The absence of an assessment of the threat to U.S. national security, a military strategy in response to the threat, the future size of the armed forces, how to meet required budget cuts and the need for major weapons.

Bush's budget, he said, is based on a 1988 threat and a 1988 strategy.

"Essentially, the administration took the level of spending and programme for fiscal year 1991 that was developed back in 1988 and reduced it for fiscal reasons," Nunn said. "They have not adjusted the underlying assumptions about threat and strategy."

But in a speech to the National Press Club, Cheney accused lawmakers of offering "complaints instead of solutions."

The defence secretary said he has told the military to take into account the assumptions that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will be "at least partially successful" in domestic reforms.

In addition, he said, planners should assume that the superpowers will implement successful arms control agreements in conventional and strategic forces; that all Soviet forces have withdrawn from Eastern Europe and that democratically elected, non-Communist governments are in their place.

While such assumptions are "a rosy scenario," Cheney said, he has used them to design the defence budget from now through 1997, and to help the armed services chiefs plan for the mid-1990s.

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## Hungarian parties enter last lap before elections

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary's jostling parties began their final campaign push Friday before the country votes Sunday in its first free elections in 45 years.

The election will complete Hungary's peaceful transition to Western-style democracy after four decades of one-party Communist rule.

An opinion survey released to Reuters Friday put the two leading parties in the race — the Liberal Alliance of Free Democrats and the centre-right Hungarian Democratic Forum — almost neck-and-neck on 21.4 and 20.9 per cent respectively.

The rural right-wing Independent Smallholders Party, which could play a key role in determining the shape of the future coalition government, was third on 15.4 per cent, according to the independent Median Polling Organisation.

On the last day of campaigning — there is a compulsory day of campaign-free reflection Saturday — the Free Democrats sent five convoys of cars and leaders into provincial cities.

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Leader Janos Kis, a former

disident and possible prime minister, was due to address electors in the constituency of Imre Pozsgay, a leading ex-Communist reformer whose ruling Socialist Party is trailing fifth with only 10.7 per cent.

The Democratic Forum also planned meetings in five provincial cities before a concluding rally in the capital led by its President Jozsef Antall, another possible premier.

So far the Smallholders have kept their coalition preferences a

secret.

But in a television debate Thursday evening, 79-year-old Smallholders' President Vince Voros said he believed the party could come to terms with the Free Democrats on his party's controversial land programme.

The Smallholders have attracted much support, largely from little-educated farm workers in the provinces, by pledging to return agricultural land seized by the Communists during a "nationalisation" programme in the late 1940s.

"Today I ask all Canadians to look into their hearts and see the magnificent country we have built together," he said.

The package introduced this week by New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna involves keeping Quebec's "distinct society" clause but also making clear the federal parliament is responsible for promoting the country's linguistic duality.

The Meech Lake debate started out as a complex argument over amending the constitution but has slowly turned into a potentially explosive fight over constitutional powers that has pitted English against French.

## Mulroney seeks to head off Quebec separation threat

OTTAWA (R) — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, saying Canada had reached a critical juncture, has called for compromise to head off the threat of Quebec separating over an argument to amend the constitution.

"We are at a critical juncture in our history," Mulroney said in a rare televised address. "The decisions we make in the next 90 days will profoundly affect our lives."

A constitutional free-for-all has emerged over the so-called Meech Lake Accord, a proposed solution to French-speaking Quebec's refusal to sign the 1982 constitution that broke Canada's last colonial ties with Britain.

Among other things, adoption

of the accord would institutionalise Quebec's right to protect its culture as a "distinct society." Critics worry the accord gives Quebec too much power and could lead to the break-up of the country.

Quebec's leaders have said that if the accord is killed they will weigh options including separating from Canada.

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa, reacting to Mulroney's announcement, said he hoped public hearings on a related proposal — a companion accord — would help achieve an end to the constitutional deadlock.

But he was adamant that the Meech Lake Accord must be

passed before other dialogue could take place.

"I am hopeful that those public hearings will contribute for the ratification of Meech Lake and then we will discuss other questions," Bourassa told reporters in Montreal.

In the speech Mulroney said he would ask a special parliament committee to study a proposal by the province of New Brunswick to offer a companion accord to resolve the impasse.

However, Mulroney stopped short of backing the new package, saying parliament would vote after public hearings.

In his address, Mulroney made a plea for compromise.

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## Documents show Soviets not Nazis massacred Poles in Katyn forest

MOSCOW (AP) — Wartime archives held secret for decades reveal evidence that Soviet secret police and not Nazi invaders murdered thousands of Polish officers in a western Russian pine forest, a newspaper says.

The weekly Moscow News, in its March 25 edition, shed light from official records on the Katyn forest massacre, one of the last grizzly deeds of the Stalin era to be touched by President Mikhail Gorbachev's new openness.

Moscow news published a two-page spread refuting claims that it was Nazi invaders who moved down the cream of the Polish intelligentsia held prisoner just south of the western Russian city Smolensk. Other articles have called for the truth about Katyn, but none went so far to document the Soviet role in what has become the most painful World War II wound for Poles.

Katyn has remained a source of lingering Polish mistrust of the Soviet Union. A joint Polish-Soviet Commission has investigated the massacre, but never made a final conclusion.

The Moscow News article concluded the Polish officers were killed in the spring of 1940, well before the Nazis invaded the area, and not in 1941 as the Soviet version long has claimed.

"Familiarity with the whole set of documents allow one to come to the conclusion that the Polish officers and police were shot in April and May by units of the NKVD," the article, based on research by historian Natalia Lebedeva, said. The NKVD was a precursor of today's KGB security police.

Hitler invaded Poland from the west on Sept. 1, 1939, touching off World II. Weeks later, Stalin's army marched into eastern Poland and remained there until they were pushed out by the Nazi

invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941.

The newspaper indicated that as many as 15,000 Polish officers were killed at once as the NKVD evacuated three prison camps. Most estimates of the number of victims at Katyn have hovered around 4,000, but Lebedeva was apparently referring to a general operation that included Katyn among other death sites.

"Soon I came to understand that this was not a coincidental action but a well-thought-through and carefully planned operation," wrote Lebedeva, who used Central National Archives and Soviet army records in her research.

She said it appeared the space in the camps had been needed to hold thousands of people who would be deported from the three Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia after the Red Army moved in.

The Soviet Union absorbed the Baltic republics, located to the northwest of Katyn in 1940 under a secret agreement with Germany that divided Eastern Europe into spheres of influence.

Lists published in Moscow News implicated dozens of Soviet secret police, army and government officials in the massacre, including Stalin and Lavrenti Beria, who headed the NKVD.

The article said Stalin appeared to have held a special grudge against the Polish officers because "his vanity was hurt" by Soviet troops' defeat at their hands two decades earlier.

Lebedeva said older archive workers told her the NKVD had tried to take over the files related to the Katyn incident in the 1940s but failed. She acknowledged that in the files she found the name Katyn was mentioned only once, but said the routes to the

points where mass graves have been found were clearly laid out.

Polish Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki has said that in order for there to be true friendship between Poland and the Soviet Union, the full story on the Katyn massacre must be told.

A monument at the site of the mass grave in Katyn attests to the traditional Soviet version of the massacre, paying tribute to the "victims of Fascism — Polish officers shot by the Nazis in 1941."

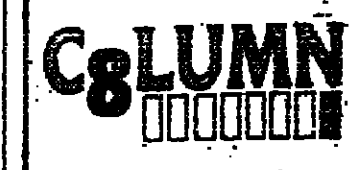
The Nazis discovered the graves in 1943 and immediately blamed the Soviet Union, but the Soviets said the Nazis had murdered the men in 1941, during the German army's march on Moscow.

Richard Pryor in hospital after heart attack

BRISBANE (AP) — Actor-comedian Richard Pryor is being treated in an Australian hospital after suffering a mild heart attack, doctors said. The Wesley Hospital, in a brief statement, described Pryor's condition as stable. It said he was admitted three days ago with chest pain and he was diagnosed as having suffered a minor heart attack. The hospital said Pryor, 49, probably will be discharged early next week. "His condition from the time of admission has been very stable," the hospital added. It did not say when Pryor arrived in Australia and for how long he would stay. Pryor's agent, Guy McElwaine, did not return repeated phone calls. Pryor has appeared thin and in poor health in recent public appearances. He is best known as the star of several comedy performances, including Richard Pryor Here and Now, "Richard Pryor Live in Concert" and "Richard Pryor is Back Live in Concert."

Charles to plead for the planet

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles is to write and present a television documentary in which he will make a worldwide plea to save the environment, the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) has announced. It will be the second TV documentary made by the heir to the British throne. The BBC has already aired ones on British architecture. It will be part of a week-long environment series, entitled "one world," to be broadcast by the publicly funded network in May.



## Culinary Berlin Wall divides White House

WASHINGTON (R) — Broccoli has raised a culinary Berlin Wall in the White House at the time when barriers are coming down elsewhere in the world. "My family is divided," President George Bush has admitted, confessing to a lifelong hatred of the vegetable prized by his wife Barbara. "Barbara loves broccoli. She has tried to make me eat it, she eats it all the time herself," Bush told a White House news conference about broccoli. The green has sprouted into the headlines alongside the changing face of Europe ever since the president's finicky palate led California broccoli growers to send him a truckload of the vegetable in protest against his banning it from the presidential plane. "I do not like broccoli. I haven't liked it since I was a little kid and my mother made me eat it. And I'm president of the United States and I'm not going to eat it any more," he declared. So, Bush said, his wife can greet the broccoli caravan due to arrive in Washington next Monday. Mrs. Bush said she would welcome the caravan with open arms. At a recent White House state dinner for Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the president threw a good-humoured temper tantrum about it. As the Polish leader, looking completely baffled, listened to an interpreter's translation of his comments, Bush issued a declaration of independence from broccoli. "Just as Poland had a rebellion against totalitarianism, I am rebelling against broccoli and I refuse to give ground," he said.

## Gloria Estefan undergoes surgery

NEW YORK (AP) — Singer Gloria Estefan, whose back was broken when her tour bus was hit by a truck, has undergone successful surgery to have her spine stabilised with metal rods, hospital officials said. The star of the Latin-pop group Miami Sound Machine was on the operating table from 8:30 a.m. until shortly after noon. Dr. Michael Neuwirth, her orthopedic surgeon, inserted the two rods into her fractured vertebrae. "So far things are going extremely well. It's been successful," said Dr. Victor Frankel, president of New York's Orthopedic Institute Hospital for Joint Diseases. He was not involved in the surgery. Ms. Estefan will need three to six months to recover from injuries she suffered in the crash Tuesday in Pennsylvania, medical experts said. State police said today the truck that hit the group's bus had faulty brakes. The singer's "prognosis is excellent for a return to normal function," Neuwirth had said. Known for her energetic dancing on stage, Ms. Estefan felt numbness and weakness in her legs after the accident. Besides being fractured, the two vertebrae were slightly dislocated, doctors said.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

**Panama expels Cuban ambassador**

PANAMA CITY (R) — Panama has said it was expelling Cuba's ambassador, charging Cuba had refused to recognise the new government of President Guillermo Endara, which it said was under the control of the U.S. military. Foreign Minister Julio Linares told a news conference that Panama would sever diplomatic relations unless the Cuban government recognised the government and said its ambassador, Lázaro Mora Secades, had five days to leave the country. "We are not going to permit here a government that is saying that it does not recognise President Endara," he said. Linares read a series of statements by Cuban officials which charged that since the Dec. 20 U.S. invasion Panama had been under military occupation by the U.S. Southern Command and therefore its government was not legitimate. The Southern Command, based in Panama City, is the military's regional headquarters for all of Latin America and was the command centre for the massive invasion which ousted Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega. Endara, along with First Vice-President Ricardo Arias Calderon and Second Vice-President Guillermo Ford, were sworn in on a U.S. military base the night the operation took place.

**Meese testifies in Iran-contra trial**

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. attorney general under former President Ronald Reagan has testified that John Poindexter never lied to him about events stemming from the Iran-contra scandal and had tried to make the facts of the affair public. Edwin Meese was the first "live" witness in the criminal trial of Poindexter, Reagan's national security adviser, following nearly eight hours of videotaped testimony from Reagan. Meese, called as a defence witness, testified that he met with Poindexter and other high-level administration officials on Nov. 20, 1986, as the Iran-contra scandal was breaking. "The purpose of the meeting was to make sure the facts were all accurately portrayed," Meese said. He said there had been no attempt to concoct a false cover story about the Reagan-era operation to sell arms to Iran and divert the profits to the Nicaraguan contras, at a time when Congress had outlawed U.S. aid to the rebels. But Meese acknowledged under cross-examination that the full story of U.S. involvement in the operation did not come out at the meeting.

**Exxon Valdez captain found not guilty**

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (R) — The U.S. captain of the Exxon Valdez supertanker who bore the stigma of the worst-ever U.S. oil spill was found not guilty of the most serious charge against him and said he wants to return to sea. "I'd like to go back to

sea," Joseph Hazelwood told reporters after the trial. "That's what I do." He was acquitted of three charges — criminal mischief, operating a water craft while intoxicated and reckless endangerment — and convicted of the relatively minor charge of negligent discharge of oil. Hazelwood said he was "ambivalent" about Exxon, which sacked him, but wanted to return to work. One of his lawyers said he would open negotiations with Exxon about possible reinstatement and back pay. Hazelwood also criticised what he called unfair press accounts which portrayed him as the cause of the ecological disaster. "I didn't care for the editorialising in the reporting process," the bearded 43-year-old captain said. He was the only individual facing criminal charges after the Exxon supertanker rammed a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound and sent 11 million gallons (42 million litres) of oil into the pristine waters one year ago-Saturday. The U.S. Justice Department is pursuing a criminal case against Exxon Corp and Exxon Shipping Co. Some legal experts said the negligence conviction could help the case.

**EC bans dangerous waste exports**

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community has agreed to ban exports of hazardous waste to 68 developing countries immediately even though a new 10-year trade and aid pact with them has not formally entered force. Diplomats said EC environment ministers approved the ending of such exports to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations as part of a resolution on how to tackle the community's own growing waste mountain. The ban on exports of dangerous waste is foreseen in the fourth Lome convention, the latest trade and aid agreement between the EC and the 68 nations. Diplomats said the ministers agreed to put the prohibition into effect immediately because, although the convention was signed in December, it will probably be several months before it can officially enter force.

**U.S. aid to Guatemala suspended**

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has suspended funds for poor children's health care in Guatemala, pending results of an investigation of money handling, a U.S. embassy official has said. "We don't want to suspend it, but \$2 million has not been accounted for. If it turns out to be fraud, somebody in the Health Ministry is stealing from the very poor," embassy spokesman Jim Dickmeyer said in telephone interview. An agency audit discovered that Health Ministry employees had failed to account for their use of funds, he said.

## Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	06 43	10 50	Cloudy
ATHENS	10 50	26 79	Clear
BAHRAIN	17 58	27 77	Clear
BANGKOK	27 81	34 93	Clear
Buenos Aires	19 66	28 78	Clear
CAIRO	18 64	24 75	Clear
CHICAGO	06 47	11 51	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	05 41	11 52	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	19 60	27 81	Clear
GENEVA	04 39	25 77	Clear
HONG KONG	22 72	24 75	Clear
ISTANBUL	06 42	14 57	Clear
LONDON	08 45	13 55	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	13 56	24 75	Clear
MADRID	M	M	M
MECCA	20 68	34 93	Cloudy
MONTREAL	08 37	11 52	Cloudy
MOSCOW	00 32	07 45	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	21 69	31 88	Clear
NEW YORK	06 42	14 55	Cloudy
PARIS	08 37	15 58	Cloudy
ROME	06 46	19 66	Cloudy
SYDNEY	17 63	24 75	Rain
TEHRAN	09 48	19 66	Clear
VIENNA	07 45	16 59	Rain

M - Indicates missing information.